AIRMAIL

July 31, 1964

Dr. Charles A. Ely
6139 Pahukula Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821

Dear Dr. Ely:

Mr. Arnold B. Joseph, Division of Biology and Medicine, US Atomic Energy Commission, Germantown, Maryland called Mr. Banko Wednesday concerning a trip he and several ecologists are making in August to Eniwetok, Bikini, and Rongelap. He asked if he could collect bird data for us on these islands. I talked with him and he was most interested in doing this for us. I asked him to note bird species (he appeared to know the birds), their numbers, and breeding status. I also asked him especially to watch for orange tagged birds, namely Sooty Terns, and any banded birds. I also suggested to him to inquire if anyone on the various islands had seen them. He will stop for two days (on his return) at Johnston. I told him to contact our personnel on Sand Island and he said he would.

I also gave him your name and telephone number and told him you were in charge of our field work. He will probably contact you around August 6. He seemed most cooperative and interested.

By the way, I called him again (after consulting with Maryanna and Mr. Banko) and inquired if there might be room for one of our personnel. He said they would be on a Trust Territory boat and they were already over their limit (15). He suggested that we might get together early next week and discuss what information we would like. Maybe also we can show him some of the bird skins.

Best regards,

A. Binion Amerson, Jr.
Research Curator, Div. of Birds

FSS WWA 40 SI

WASHINGTON DC 7-31-54 0913R

MAX C THOMPSON

SMITHSONIAN PARTY ST GEORGE PRIBILIOF ISLAND ALASKA ISLANDS ALASKA

ONE BANDS MIST NETS SENT TO ST GEORGE TWO MARSHALL TRIP DEFINITELY SCHEDULED OCT NOV.

MARYANNA SNELLOU

IBH 0920R

WESTERN UNION TELEX SERVICE

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1964 JUL 31 AM 3 54

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WASHINGTON DC 31 325A EDT

TELTEX
THIS MESSAGE RECEIVED DIRECT FROM SENDER VIA WU TELEX

DIV OF BIRDS SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE

WASHDC

310545Z

ATTENTION: MRS. MARYANNA SMELLOW

1. DUMONT MUST BRING NEW TYPEWRITER; PRESENT ONE INOPERABLE.

2. SIGNED: W. O. WIRTZ RESEARCH CURATOR PACIFIC PROJECT

CGLORSTA KURE

WU TELTEX WSH

NAVCOMSTA WSH

V

1964 JUL 31 AM 4 54

NAME OF AGENCY

PRECEDENCE

ACTION:

INFO.:

TYPE OF MESSAGE

☐ SINGLE ☐ BOOK

☐ MULTI-ADDRESS

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION

STANDARD FORM 14 REV. MARCH 15, 1957
GSA REGULATION 2-IX-203.04

TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
U. S. GOVERNMENT

THIS BLOCK FOR USE OF COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

CK 16 GOVT DL PD TDAM WASHINGTON DC JULY 31 735 A

MESSAGE TO BE TRANSMITTED (Use double spacing and all capital letters)

THIS COL. FOR AGENCY USE

START MESSAGE ADDRESS HERE

MAX THOMPSON SMITHSONIAN PARTY STGEORGE PRIBILOF ISLAND, ALASKA

UNCLAS ONE BANS MIST NETS SENT TO STGEORGE TO MARSHALL TRIP DEFINITELY

SCHEDULED OCTOBER TO NOVEMBER

MARYANNA SMELLOW
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

DO NOT TYPE MESSAGE BEYOND THIS LINE

PAGE NO. | NO. OF PAGES

NAME AND TITLE OF ORIGINATOR *(Type)*

ORIGINATOR'S TEL. NO.

DATE AND TIME PREPARED

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

I certify that this message is official business, is not personal, and is in the interest of the Government.

(Signature)

GPO : 1957 O-F—423399

file

AIRMAIL

July 30, 1964

Mr. David Bratley
Smithsonian Party
US Coast Guard LORAN Station
APO 105
San Francisco, California

Dear Dave:

I need for you to take several measurements of objects on Sand. We are making a new map from the photograph and need to know actual measurements before reduction is done. The following are needed:

1) width and length of transmitter building roof (if impossible, get length of walkway on North side of transmitter building).
2) width and length of signal building roof.
3) diameter of concrete bunker on SE islet (inside measurement)
4) length and width of cement guywire base on South beach.
5) length of front edge of cement bunker on East shore.
6) length (widest part) and width of NE guywire base (one touching NE peninsula next to the common Noddy area).

Enclosed you will find a copy of one print which has been made. It is being redone, however, to eliminate the sharp contrasts in various places and the square corners. We also are having it redone with a black background.

Best regards,

A. Binion Amerson, Jr.
Research Curator
Division of Birds

Enc.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

SF-1201 (4-60)

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LT = International Letter Telegram

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination

LLF022 WA011

(LL) (TLX002) THIS MESSAGE RECEIVED DIRECT FROM SENDER VIA

WU TELEX GOVT PD TLX WASHINGTON DC 30 242A EDT

1964 JUL 30 AM 4 08

DIVISION OF BIRDS, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE

WASHDC

300230Z.

ATTENTION: MRS. MARYANNA SMELLOW

1. DUMONT SHOULD BRING TWO LARGE NOTEBOOKS FROM MY OFFICE MARKED RATTUS EXULANS.

2. SUNDELL WILL RETURN WITH DATA FOG FLEET AND CHEST OF FROZEN SPECIMENS W. O. WIRTZ RESEARCH CUARTOR, PACIFIC PROJECT

CG LORAN STATION KURE

(50).

E- 63911

JUL 30 AM 4 10
1964 JUL 30 AM 9 25

FHN WWA 206 SI

WASHINGTON DC 7-28-64 1548R

DR CHARLES A ELY

5139 PAHUKULA ST HONOLULU HAWAII

WHITMAN DUMONT ANDERSON ARRIVE 7-30 1155PM.

MARYANNA SNELLOW

7-30 1155PM

BP 1610R

July 27, 1964

Dr. Charles A. Ely
4139 Pahukula Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821

Dear Dr. Ely,

My arrival is scheduled for late 30 July! I'll get a taxi into town due to the hour!

I have one remaining day of leave which I would like to take Friday, 31 July - hence my arrival on Thursday.

If possible, and of course if you have no objections, I would like to talk with you Friday morning in preparation for the August cruise--and then depart in the P. M. for another island--to return to board ship Sunday afternoon.

Enclosed is a list of items needed in the lab aboard ship before departure. Perhaps Ken and Paul could get these if they haven't already done so?

Regards to Jan, David and S.I. party.

See you soon!

Respectfully,

Doug Whitman
Technical Assistant
Pacific Project

Encl.

The following is a list of things that the Shearwater will need in the lab before leaving on the August Cruise.

Paper towels (P.C.)

Screw cap vials with caps (P.C.)

Bottle (spray can) of Deoderant

Gun oil (P.C.)

Gun grease (P.C. ?)

.22 cleaning pads (if gun is fixed) (P.C.)

12 gauge cleaning pads (P.C.)

sawdust (P.C.)

lens paper

Formaldehyde solution (P.C. ? doubtful)

Masking tape

New net and pole (dark bomboo is best)

Soda pop!

Bob Standen

P. S. - "P.C." - Means, this item is in storage at Pearl City'!

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

July 27, 1964

Maryanna Smellow
Division of Birds
Smithsonian Institution
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Maryanna:

I finally arrived at Sand Island; however, you can't imagine how close I came to not making the flight out of Hickam on the 26th. When I arrived at the airport at 5:15 A.M. they did not have me on the flight and had to settle for standby. When I finally got on the flight they had to finish processing my reservation and did not have the clearance stamped on it. They had to get the _____ out of bed to finish processing it. For awhile it looked like a couple more days in Honolulu; I don't think I would have lasted - up all night before the flight - whew!, pretty wild place, Waikiki.

Enclosed are the answers to questions 3 and 5. Physical defects are all mental.

Linda - my roomates wish to remain anonymous; half of them can't remember who they are anyway.

Missing you all,

Phil

Phil

AIRMAIL

July 27, 1964

Mr. Richard W. Merrill
Smithsonian Party
PO Box 9187
Honolulu, Hawaii 96820

Dear Dick:

I am rushing like mad to get this in the mail last Friday - so you will have it today!! Anyway, such were my intentions - but the "Road to hell....." you know.

Would you be so kind as to pull these supplies for Binion's trip to the Marshalls? They should be set aside before the ATF crew returns and starts to rummage. I suppose this will make a mess of the organization at Pearl City since you will have to be switching trunks and etc., so maybe Dr. Ely should be consulted. I've told him I would be asking for your assistance.

Your brother came in - what a fine lad - but we love you the most.

Thanks for the funny - I get my biggest kicks out of dead bird bones.

Love and everything,

Maryanna Smellow

Enclosures
Advance check for $568.00 for at-sea cruise
Inventory Sheets

26 July 1964

Dr. Richard F. Johnston
Museum of Natural History
Division of Birds
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas 66045

Dear Richard:

My mother has notified me that she sent you the papers from the Smithsonian Institution to be signed. I want to thank you for doing this.

Things are going as expected out in the Pribilof Islands. The Ruddy Turnstones are starting to flock in and we are getting a few in our mist nets. We have a cannon net coming and it should be quite effective.

I forgot in the last minute rush to return the skeletal material to Michigan. I told Jim about it and hope that he found time to do it. I presume that the material from Bob Elbel has arrived by this time. The National Museum has another case full of Thailand material from SEATO sent in by Marshall that was collected through the years and apparently stored out in Bangkok.

I missed seeing Williamson in Anchorage as he was in the field. He did write me a letter and tell me that he was attending the AOU meeting in August. He said it would be his last if it was as political as the Ithaca meetings. I am sure that it will be his last. Dick Zusi said that he was planning on going to the Cheyenne Bottoms after the meetings so maybe several will want to go. As head of that committee (relinquished to Jim) I suggest you get some Quivira maps and get a travel folio out on places to bird.

I must close and look at mist nets. We never know when a ship will come by and pick up the mail so this may get to Kansas next year.

I want to thank you for the troubles and time you took to get me out of KU. I suspect you were as happy to get rid of me as I was to get out. Regards.

Sincerely

Max C. Thompson
Central Pacific Project

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

26 July 1964

Maryanna Smellow
Division of Birds
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C. 20560

Dear Maryanna:

It is rumored that a ship is stopping by to pick up our mail for transport to St. Paul in the near future. As usual it is probably just a rumor.

Thanks for the prompt action on the cannon net. We found soon after arriving that the Arctic Fox and the Pacific Project don't get along very well together. They insist on throwing seal bones in our nets and then chewing off the shelf loops. All of our 20 meter nets now have gigantic holes in them and are virtually unrepairable. We had to rebuild one the other day. The nets are travelling as was expected in the wind. We tried tethering the nets but the wind just takes the knots with the rest of the net. So unless the wind comes from the right direction we have a heck of a time. One must be careful where one walks and talks. The seal carcasses are literally moving around on the ground from seething hordes of maggots and the air is black with hordes of humming metallic green blow flies the size of horses. We have thought of banding them with size 0 bands but decided the returns would not justify the time spent. The Gray-crowned Rosy Finches are getting the heck banded out of them. We have just finished up are first 100 bands on them. To the present time we have banded about 110 birds. We caught two turnstones which had to be dispatched due to the mist net injuring one and a fox chewing up the other. The cannon net should work wonders as these birds congregate by the hundreds in close net flocks. We have worked around them enough now where they don't pay much attention to us.

The net poles we bought from the tent company are alittle weak for this wind but better than Bleitz's.

The Fisheries boat will go from here to the Aleutians in mid-September. I estimate by this time the work will be finished in the Pribilofs. Would it be in line with the Pacific Project if we were to take the boat to the Aleutians and work from Atka up the chain to Cold Bay and return to Anchorage in lieu of St. Lawrence? The boat will return to the Pribilofs and we may try to get one guy on it to make an at sea survey if this meets with

your approval. The shearwaters from Australia should have reached their maximum concentration in the Aleutians by that time and it would be interesting to estimate the numbers on the "wintering" grounds. Iwould estimate the round trip time to be approximately one week.

I have been giving some thought to the matter of having an observer on a fisheries research vessel south of the Aleutians this winter. It would seem that it may be a bit futile as the shearwaters and petrels will have returned to the southern hemisphere for the summer nesting season. The only birds that would be present possibly are the alcids and some larids. Of course the petrels (Leachs and Fork-tailed) that nest in the Aleutians would be present.

The FSR ship will be at St. Paul and St. George for about one month so if we need anything it should be easy enough to get on short notice.

The west wind is starting to blow abit and it looks as if if is going kick up a storm.

Regards and all of that.

Sincerely yours

Max

Max C. Thompson
Pacific Project

25 July 1964
Govt. Nightletter Collect

Maryanna Smellow
Division of Birds
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C.

Send TEN BLACK MIST NETS TWENTY METERS LONG AND TWO METERS WIDE Stop
TWO HUNDRED BANDS SIZE ONE B STOP FSR BOAT IN AREA FROM AUGUST
FIVE TO SEPT TEN STOP DO NOT ANTICIPATE NEED OF MORE FIRING
DEVICES STOP FIVE TURNSTONES BANDED TO DATE.

MAX C. THOMPSON
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

AIRMAIL

July 24, 1964

Mr. Cameron B. Kepler
Smithsonian Institution,
Division of Birds
PO Box 9187
Honolulu, Hawaii 96820

Dear Cam:

Please read once and return to me. Memorize every third line and write a post card to me twice a week telling me everything fourth line memorized.

Only the 'sic' guys get to Sand!!!

We are missing you and missing you and missing you and missing you and missing you and missing you,.....AND we know how much you miss us by all the mail!!!!

Missing you, and missing you,
and missing you, and missing you
and.....

Maryanna Smellow

Enclosure

AIRMAIL

July 24, 1964

Dr. Charles Ely
6139 Pahukula Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821

Dear Doc:

(Excuse the informality, it is just that I have salutationed you so many times this week!)

ANNUAL REPORT:

Dr. Humphrey told me the following:

There should be a descriptive statement of who has been where for how long from June 1963 to July 1964. I have sent you a chart of this and can easily put it into any other form you would like.

There should be a financial statement. I am enclosing some - this also can be put in a different form.

Each leader should present a 3-4 page statement (At-Sea might be 10 pages) on his area and accomplishments to date. This would include sections on Sand, Kure, Midway, DC., Wake, At-Sea, ATF, Ectoparasites, Live Bird, and Ectoparasite Shipments, Cromwell, Oceanographic, Botany, etc. The descriptive narrative should be arranged topically, perhaps using Dr. Humphrey's outline in amendment.

The total report should be about 150 pages long.

If possible this should not be something which is a duplication of effort at final report time. Supportive data is not needed.

The time schedule: we have 90 days to write the report and submit a final draft to BOC; BOC has 30 days to approve; and then the SI has 30 more days to prepare 50 copies. (Dr. Humphrey wants to see the final draft on Sept. 24 and earlier drafts earlier.).

Final note on annual report: Dr. Ely is in charge.

Enough, enough for today - but don't think that is all.

Have a good weekend,

Maryanne Swallow

Enclosure:
Financial statement through June 20, 1984.

FC

NAME OF AGENCY

PRECEDENCE

ACTION:

INFO.:

TYPE OF MESSAGE

☐ SINGLE ☐ BOOK

☐ MULTI-ADDRESS

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION

STANDARD FORM 14 REV. MARCH 15, 1957
GSA REGULATION 2-IX-203.04

TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
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CK 57 GOVT DL PD TEAN PWS JULY 24 1154 A

MESSAGE TO BE TRANSMITTED (Use double spacing and all capital letters)

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START MESSAGE ADDRESS HERE

MAX THOMPSON SMITHSONIAN PARTY ST. PAUL ISLAND

UNCLAS FWS LONG NET TRAP 35X75 ONE INCH MESH 3

CANNONS COMPLETE AIR EXPRESSED FROM ABERDEEN SOUTH DAKOTA JULY 24

OR 25. 150 PROPELLING CHARGES ENOUGH FOR 50 FIRINGS WILL LEAVE

CENTRAL TECHNOLOGY HERRIN ILLINOIS JULY 27 AIR EXPRESSS. PLEASE ADVISE

APPROXIMATE NEXT ST. PAUL TO ST. GEORGE SHIP DEPARTURE IF

NEED FOR ADDITIONAL CARTRIDGES ANTICIPATED

WINSTON BANKO
SMITHSONIAN

DO NOT TYPE MESSAGE BEYOND THIS LINE

PAGE NO. | NO. OF PAGES

NAME AND TITLE OF ORIGINATOR *(Type)*

ORIGINATOR'S TEL. NO.

DATE AND TIME PREPARED

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

I certify that this message is official business, is not personal, and is in the interest of the Government.

(Signature)

GPO : 1957 O-F—423399

fe

AIRMAIL

July 23, 1964

Mr. Philip N. Lehner
Smithsonian Party
US Coast Guard LORAN Station
APO 105
San Francisco, California

Dear Phil:

You forgot to fill in Item No. 3 and No. 5 on your Security Form - so please write and tell me what the answers should be - I can hardly wait!

If that's all you have to hide - I'm surprised!!

We miss you!!!!!!?

Lonesomely,

Maryanna

Enclosures
DD 398
MAIL

file

AIRMAIL

July 22, 1964

Mr. David Bratley
Smithsonian Party
US Coast Guard LORAN Station
APO 105
San Francisco, California

Dear Dave:

Hope Phil gets down there by the time you get this letter. It seems that everything happens at once. We need you back here in DC so you can help on the upcoming Sand report. You will be here approximately 2 months. Since Phil can't get down there until the 26th, we have to have at least a 2 week overlap so he can learn all that is going on. Cam Kepler is to replace you. His arrival time is scheduled for August 9. You can leave on the 10th or as soon as you orient him. I hope Phil is able to learn fast.

Now a problem lies in bringing all necessary data from Sand so we can utilize it here. This may present difficulties in some cases. The best solution may be to duplicate the data sheets, etc. See if the tracking station or someone on Johnston can Xerox or machine duplicate it for us.

Bring all collected material back with you if possible. If you have enough frozen birds to bring back, write Dr. Ely and have Kepler bring some dry ice to Sand. You can then use it to bring the birds back.

Bring the banding record book back also. We will Xerox it and send it right back.

I sent Terry the item he wanted. Hope he enjoys it.

Regards,

A. Binion Amerson, Jr.
Research Curator
Pacific Project

MARYANNA SMELLOW
DIVISION OF BIRDS
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

20 JULY 1964
ST GEORGE ISLAND, ALASKA

ORDER CANNON NET FOR PROJECT STOP MUST ARRIVE ST PAUL BY AUG # 3 FOR TRANSPORT TO ST GEORGE STOP MIST NETS INEFFECTIVE DUE TO HIGH WIND AND FOXES STOP ADDRESS TO BOB DE LONG ST PAUL STOP MAKE SURE NET SIZE SUITABLE FOR SHOREBIRDS AND NECESSARY FIRING DEVICES ARE WITH IT STOP CANCEL SHIPMENT OF FURTHER NET POLES.

MAX C. THOMPSON
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

file

AIRMAIL

July 17, 1964

Dave Bratley, Dick Merrill, Phil Lehner
Smithsonian Party
US Coast Guard LORAN Station
APO 105
San Francisco, California

Dear Dick, Dave and Phil:

Received your letter of the 13th this morning. The items asked for are being sent today. I am in the process of having new maps made (by Nancy) from the composite photograph. The Photo Lab is reducing the photograph to 8x10 size also. Copies will be sent to all concerned.

I am certainly glad to hear that the CG relationship is improving. Here's hoping that it continues to do so.

I talked to Phil about making roosting maps for the Sooties before he left for Sand. I think we need a map made on a regular basis (4 times a month) and whenever a sudden change is evident. Also areas used during the day and night should be eifferentiated.

Yes, I figured jets would be down there, but not quite this soon. Do they have very many? I suppose the runway has already been extended. I hope the Sooties do not cause problems like the albatross at Midway. The planes don't come that close to Sand, but if all the birds fly when one takes off problems might develop, if they get into the take-off or approach pattern.

I am very glad the Bulwer's eggs are hatching. Try to get data on incubation length and shift, feeding (time, etc.), food, and weights and measurements of the chicks. We know absolutely nothing about the habits and other factors of this species. Be sure to also take berleze samples of their nests.

Speaking of ectoparasites, we need some more specimens from most of the species. These should be sent in as soon as possible. I would like to get some bird heads for later examination. These should be gotten from birds with broken wings. Use only very fresh specimens and put the heads in Whirlpacks (don't mix species) and freeze them. I need a

large series of Sooties (25-50). We'll get them back here later via a frozen shipment. Remember also that specimens in excellent condition are to be frozen so skins later can be made. These will probably be sent back here frozen also (or worked on down there in the fall).

I need some information on the Brown Booby pair bands. Will you copy this from the banding record book. I also am still missing a letter. I looked for it before I left there, but couldn't find it. Maybe you will have better luck. The letter is on Smithsonian stationary and is from the USCG Planetree giving the latitude and longitude where the Sooties were released. Look both in the correspondence file and all the other files. If you find it send it back here.

Best regards,

Binion Amerson
Research Curator
Division of Birds, Pacific Project

July 16, 1964

Dear Bill:

I am hoping that you had a good trip. There isn't anything new here, we continue to drive ahead. This letter is just to remind you of the data that should be sent back here. Note list that follows.

1. All banding return forms, especially Albatross.

2. Ludwig's notes on the beginning of Albatross breeding (in green notebook).

3. List of bands used through June, 1964, from partial strings, by species and by month.

4. All activity study data through June.

5. All of Albatross study data sheets.

6. Summary of progress of Red-tailed Tropicbird study to date. *

* Don't forget weekly pictures of chicks. Incubation period is about 42 days, be sure and check each nest a few days in advance of expected hatching date so as to get correct hatching date.

If you need anything let me know and I'll send it.

As Always

Robert R. Fleet

St. Paul Village
Pribilof Islands
16 July 1964

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

This should do it, Linda, except that I figure I only took two days annual leave in May, since the 23rd & 24th were a weekend, I arrived in Washington the 24th and worked the 25th.

We're supposed to be ready to move aboard the Coast Guard Cutter "Clover" on 2 hours notice today to move to St. George, but the fog is thick, its raining steadily and cold.

Enclosed whisker of Steller's sea lion, Eumetopias jubata, in case anyone would like an ivory toothpick.

Tim

I. O. U

some pennies

the Phantom

FHN UWA 251 SI

WASHINGTON DC 7-15-64 1612R

DR CHALRES ELY

6139 PAHUKULA ST HONOLULU HAWAII

LEHNER ARRIVES 716 740 PM WIRTZ ARRIVES 717 230 PM

MARYANNA SMELLOW SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

BSC 1627R

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1964 JUL 20 PM 3:04
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

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AIRMAIL

July 15, 1964

Max Thompson, Vin Hoeman
Smithsonian Party
St. Paul
Pribilof Islands, Alaska

Dear Max and Vin:

Copies of some pertinent literature and exchange of correspondence with Survey personnel and Messrs. Pungowiyi and Slwooko are attached. I am also sending along a copy of the Alaska Trip Report, hoping especially, Vin, that you agree generally with the additional material I added to your original manuscript.

I neglected to inquire whether you took scales suitable for getting representative migration weights on turnstones, golden plovers, etc., but I assume you did. If there is anything further we can do for you let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Winston Banko
Pacific Project
Division of Birds

c: Dr. Humphrey

Enclosure

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

15 July 1964

Mrs. Maryanna Smellow
Div. of Birds
United States National Museum
Washington, D. C. 20560

Dear Maryanna:

Greetings from the Pribylof Islands. Home of the Northern Fur Seal and his noble remains as they lie rotting and stinking in the sun.

Things are going as expected, ie. no Ruddy Turnstones banded. They are just beginning to arrive now. We are transferring to St.George Island in the next day or two if the Coast Guard ship comes in.

Themanagement here has informed me as of this morning that theywishto billthe Smithsonian for our stay here and do not want us to pay for it here as this causes some foul up in their appropriations. I told them I would try toarrange it with you. You would be billed through the Seattle office. Please advise.

I am including the first bi-weekly report for you. Immust say there isan awful lot of record keeping in this operation.

I understand that you will be sending more netpoles up in the near future. We hopethat they will be here in time for the shipto bring them over on August 6. The net poles sent from Don Bleitz Co. are to frailfor the high winds up here and you shouldn't get anymore of them.

The record sheets arrived safely. As a matter of fact, if you can send material air mail it arrives much faster than air freight. Would suggest net poles be sent that way ifpossible.

Iguess it is cheerio for now. Excuse the typewriters narrow space bar. Regards to all.

Sincerely yours

Max

Max C. Thompson
Pacific Project

AIRMAIL

July 14, 1964

David Bratley and Dick Merrill
Smithsonian Party
US Coast Guard LORAN Station
APO 105
San Francisco, California 96305

Dear Dick and Dave:

Got your excellent Progress Report yesterday. I am glad you are still getting good data despite the harassment.

I would like to inaugurate a modified activity study on the boobies and frigates using Sand as a roosting place. I'll discuss this with Phil Lehner and give him the details.

The Wedgetail setup sounds good. Try to get some good incubation shift data (both length of shift and time of day it occurs). Do you have a copy of Lockley's "Shearwater"? Have you gotten any food samples from this species yet? If not, we need some badly.

I received a copy of the letter Dr. Ely wrote you about the Coast Guard problem. I hope you did meet with the CO. This might help. I suggested to Dr. Ely that the contracting agent obtain a storage room for us on Johnston. This would relieve us of a space problem on Sand.

Dick, your brother dropped by the office today. He was asking about a job but, unfortunately, right now we are full up at the assistant level. Bill Wirtz went with him down to the Division of Mammals and introduced him to Dr. Johnson. They didn't have anything either, however.

Sincerely yours,

A. B. Amerson, Jr.
Research Curator
Division of Birds

7/17/64 - sent 50' tape measure
extra film packs
2 - 3x4 notebooks
50' chaser [illegible]

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

July 13, 1964

Mr. Binion Amerson
Smithsonian Institution
Division of Birds
Washington, D.C.

Dear Binion:

First and foremost, we are in desperate need of more headlamp batteries. We thought there was another box, but on inspection found it was not filled with batteries. Also whirl-paks and a small record book(5x8 in.) for banding records are needed.

Our relationship with the Coast Guard has improved over the last couple of days. The Chiefs are giving us more cooperation and the harassment has lessened. I believe the trouble has reached its peak and will now become better, so it would be best to leave the situation ride for awhile with hopes that all problems will disappear altogether and I sincerely think this will happen.

The sooty terns are beginning to leave and quite rapidly at that. During the day, there are areas completely devoid of birds and even in populated areas it is thin. The population increases at night, but one can still see that the birds are decreasing. At times nearly the whole population of sooties, with no disturbance whatsoever, will rise from the island in one mass flock and fly about awhile before setting down again. They must be getting very restless.

They now have jet planes on Johnston and this is causing a great deal of disturbance with the sooties. Every time a jet takes off, every sooty does likewise. I am afraid with our past disturbances(banding,etc.) and now the jets, the birds are going to depart earlier than usual.

Last night we found a Bulwer's chick---a first for Sand Is. Talk about a cute little ball of black fuzz. The down was so soft, it could not be felt with the fingertips.

I am sorry about the albino, but we do have many photographs of it in both color and black and white. The project film has been mailed, so you ought to receive it soon.

Regards,

David

David A. Bratley

P.S. Could you get us more maps of the island — the one we had [illegible]

St. Paul, Pribilofs
13 July 1964

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

Dear Maryanna and others;

Today the mail plane comes in (if the fog lifts), so, hoping for some from your end, we'll get some ready to go out. We have been here a week today; our gear came in on a tourist flight last Friday. Even now our first live-caught shorebird (rock sandpiper) struggles in a mist net across a salt estuary, inaccessible till the tide goes down to where we can wade across. A few (less than 50) ruddy turnstones have been observed daily feeding in this locality.

So far we have banded nestling gray-crowned rosy finches (they frequent the village like sparrows here and are a very large dark race), collected some of these, snow buntings, least & crested auklets, rock sandpiper, pigeon guillemot, and a blue phase arctic fox. A native named Nicolai Stephanin has a frozen northern shrike he got last winter and says he'll give us (new record for these islands ?).

Observations are too numerous to record here, but include an osprey (new record for Pribilofs ?), that's been around Salt Lagoon for 3 days now. I've been trying to get a telephoto picture since we'd rather not collect such a bird whose identity is so certain. Thick-billed murres and black-legged kittiwakes have eggs in plain view on the cliffs; those of both puffins, the auklets, and fulmars are a little better hidden and less accessable. Red-faced cormorants have eggs or small young. The first 2 hours I was on this island I got 7 life birds, but in the rest of the week I only added one more. Max's score about the same.

Toward the end of this month we hope to make trips to Otter and Walrus Islands, particularly the latter, which is hard to reach but has no foxes, so sea birds are able to nest everywhere out in the open. The murres are supposed to be packed like the sooty terns on Johnston (Sand) and there is a colony of glacous-winged gulls that should have young big enough to band by then. This species is a very desireable one to band. Those that refuge manager Jones has banded at Cold Bay have yielded returns from Japan, and several from Siberia. There are also a few pairs of the larger, paler glaucous gulls nesting on Walrus.

A son and daughter of old Bob Reeve (founder of Reeve Aleutian Airlines) were here with last tourist flight. Dick Reeve (copilot) came on a birding trip with us to the colonies of sea birds at SW Point, Janice Reeve (stewardess) brightened our conversation as we skinned birds down in the laboratory.

The herd of ferel reindeer on this island (about 450 head now) keep the lichens and mosses grazed down to a minimum, but grass and herbaceous vegetation, perhaps because of them, flourish. Some whole areas are colored with the blooms of lupine, Pedicularis, or arctic poppy. Beachgrass (Elymus arenarius mollis) or a sedge (Carex sp.), depending on moisture of area, are usually dominant however.

You've got to watch these seals! If you're out on the killing fields and get to thinking about something else, like birds, and suddenly there's an "UH-UH-UH-UH" right behind you and those inch-long canines aren't very many bull-seal lunges behind that hot, stinky breath you feel & smell. Speaking of the teeth, they're very pretty in a minor ivory sort of way and available for the digging out of the broken skulls places where carcasses were thrown in bygone years before processing for mink-food. Several dead sea lions and one dead killer whale on the beach, but please don't ask us for fresh skeletons of either.

If Palmer's 2nd vol. on shorebirds comes out we could certainly use a copy. We could use the 1st vol. too, but not enough to have one bought.

The tide's going down and we have things to do.

Yrs, Vin Hoeman

file

AIRMAIL

July 9, 1964

Mr. Robert Sundell
Smithsonian Party
US Coast Guard LORAN Station
USN Air Station 3080
FPO, San Francisco, California

Dear Bob:

Being already in a foul state of mind due to the condition of the world, I am also dissatisfied with the results of a month's work on Kure as indicated in the last two progress reports, the second of which only arrived today.

Your reports show only about 180 birds banded for the month, when the average normally runs about 700. This is particularly serious if you let any of the albatross chicks leave the island without their little green band. Wedgetails must be banded a minimum of two nights per week and every bird handled checked for an egg in the tract so that we can get laying dates. I hope the wedgetail burrow stakes have not been removed as we intend to dig out and roof over these burrows and continue the study. This need not be done before I return this month. We also need to get bands on the sooties, and green paint on their bellies. Collect all orange streamer birds which appear on Kure for the band return. The requested data sheets on growth and development of the Tropicbird, with special note of the number of study chicks, were not included in either progress report.

I am most unhappy with your decision not to collect the requested rat information as George had been carefully instructed. It is my decision whether or not to trust your accuracy when I analyze the data; you should have at least made the effort to do your best in spite of limited experience. Reproductive and ectoparasite information is especially important to the project. The July trapping will therefore be delayed until I return. I should be on Kure July 23, and the traps should be cleaned and ready to set on July 26.

It had always been my wish that the weekly work schedules from the calendar be included in each progress report so that we

know precisely what was done each day; these sheets were not included in either report.

We have been requested not to use phrases like "no change from last report" on progress reports, something all of us have been guilty of, as these are frequently used independently by someone who may not have the previous one to refer to.

We need some information back here for inclusion in the annual report, which I'd like you to get together and send back to Bob Fleet. Add up (by species by month) all the birds banded up to July 1 on uncompleted forms so we can get the total number of birds banded January through June this year.

I'm looking forward to getting out of this hot humid city and back to our tropical paradise. Hope you have the surfboards well waxed by the time I get back. I'll try to pick up some little thing in Honolulu to liven up the next few months on Kure.

Sincerely yours,

William O. Wirtz, II.
Research Curator
Division of Birds, Pacific Project

c: Dr. Ely

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

SF-1201 (4-60)

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LT = International Letter Telegram

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination

LLA246 SYA313

1964 JUL 9 PM 5 13

SY PKA228 PD WUX POUGHKEEPSIE Y 9 452P EDT

GEORGE S WISLOCKI, DEPT OF STUDY OF BIRDS

SMITHSONIAN INST WASHDC

TRYING TO REACH YOU BY PHONE ALL WEEK WITHOUT LUCK PLEASE PHONE ME TONIGHT OR FRIDAY MORNING LOVE

MOTHER

(58)

C- 40307

1964 JUL 9 PM 5 27

file

AIRMAIL

July 7, 1964

Mr. Douglas E. Gill
Smithsonian Party
USS Takelma (ATF 113)
c/o FPO San Francisco, California

Dear Doug:

Dip your little pink fingers in some black sticky ink and apply to white shining card. (Your other prints are unidentifiable). Send white card with dirty prints in ugly envelope to beautiful Maryanna. please???

Forever yours,

Maryanna Smellow

Enclosure
SF-87[2]
Envelope

St. Paul Island, Alaska
7 July 1964

Dear Komrads;

This place was inhabited 99 years by the Russian sealers and only 97 years since then by American sealers. The Russian influence is still strong. The most ornate and beautiful building in town is the Russian Orthodox Church on the hill behind our "hotel" with its gilted cross atop the highest cupulo. It's raining and the fog hangs low, but let me leave the dreary present to describe the brightness of the immediate past.

In Seattle I visited our sealing ship at the Navy Docks, the FSR 791. It will leave to come to these islands 27 July, arriving a bit over a week later, and transport us to the more primitive and bird-infested St. George. I gave the obliging Capt. Langbeahm a big roll of chickenwire and some other goodies like non-airtransportable pressure paint & propane to bring by sea.

Then to the NORTH, where Max and I had agreed to meet through a mutual friend, Dr. F.S.L. Williamson, but of course "Willi" & family had gone fishing for the long weekend, so Max & I never got together in Anchorage. We either both did the things we had to do like buy alcohol, chloroform, & bug dope (mixed drinks), or neither did them like telegraph here to tell them we were coming. And our air freight didn't arrive in Anchorage so I just had to look hungrily at the young arctic terns of which there seemed to be helpless scores on the flats by Anchorage, rather than slapping bands on their far-flying bods.

Not long did I remain inactive, since I know too many people in Anchorage and have a reputation of "activity". Each Independence Day for the past 50 a little mountain race known as a Mountain Marathon has been staged at the port city of Seward, and 2 yrs ago I was invegaled to run in the same. I'd done enough climbing & running beforehand to be in fair shape that year and placed 11th out of 35. That's better than it sounds because each year half the runners are Army biathylon teams which do nothing but practise yearround, and they always take the top places. Anyway, an acquaintance named Hartmut Pluntke, who's come in last for the last 3 years, talked me into agreeing I'd run on his Seward "All-American" Team. The drive to Seward was spectacular since it must be done with a tide-table nowadays. The high tides along Turnagain Arm flood the highway closing it to all traffic because the whole area sank in the 27 March quake. The towns of Girdwood and Portage were pretty well battered to pieces and carried off by ice chunks in these high tides. Miles of marsh are now regularly flooded and will die. Seward too has undergone a change. When I made a Christmas bird count there in December it was a thriving seaport serving interior Alaska by rail and highway. Now the waterfro is gone, canneries & docks gone, railroad gone, the radio station I spoke ½ an hour on last year, all gone in the tidal wave. A woman whose boat I enquired about renting for Pacific Project last December disappeared with the boat in the quake. Even the sea otters are no longer seen in Resurrection Bay. But the spirit of the survivors remains; they still stage their races & salmon derbies, make visitors feel like honored guests, and describe to me fantastic numbers of improbable birds.

To shorten a story with which you are already bored, I ran that dat-blamed mountain again but was so out of shape it hurt and placed 18th out of 40, but helped my team get a nice big trophy for first civilian team by being one of their top 3 runners. See clipping (and return it so I can play hero to my folks too).

Yesterday Max & I met at Anchorage International Airport and boarded our DC-4 bound for the Bering Sea, but our many parcels of air freight were still missing. Reeve has been informed to send them on. Our plane touched down at Kodiak and from there to Cold Bay only a few smoking Aleutian volcanos pierced the general cloud layer. Chatted briefly with refuge manager Bob Jones and his new assistant at Cold Bay, then northwest over the "Smokey Sea" to those of its islands furthest removed from any other land - the Pribilofs.

When we dropped down through the low clouds for our approach kittiwakes and light-phase fulmars scattered from our noise, hundreds of fur seals and a small whale sounded. Seals were breaching and sounding everywhere. The high silhouette (sp?) of St. George appeared as a gray blob to the left, then faded and soon we were touching down on the red ash runway of St. Paul. The greenery outside was some places so dense with lupine as to be a bluery instead and bright yellow arctic poppies and other flowers added to

the color. While the sun could not actually have been said to shine, it was a bright day, not raining or blowing much. Summer lasted all afternoon. Out of paper & time. Kin

AIRMAIL

July 6, 1964

David Bratley, Dick Merrill
Smithsonian Party
US Coast Guard LORAN Station
APO 105
San Francisco, California 96305

Dear Dick and Dave:

Got back from a wonderful vacation last night. Washington is still the same however, - hot.

Ray came in this morning with news concerning the bird shipment. I was very disappointed that the albina Sooty Tern got away. You should not have had him out! I hope you realize that this is a big loss for it was a very rare bird. Even if he comes back we probably couldn't get him to DC now. I certainly hope you took some black and white photos of him after I left. I have some earlier photos of him.

I am very sorry to hear that our relationship with the Coast Guard personnel has gotten worse. I feel that it's probably due to the 1st class who are putting pressure on everyone else. I think you know who I mean. I certainly hope this "blows over" before too long. Try to do the best you can despite their opposition and harassment. I may have to write Lt. Thurman if things get worse. Keep us posted.

We will send the items you asked for as soon as possible. Phil Lehner is to replace Dick around the 19th or 22nd of July. Dick will probably then be on an "at-sea" survey for a short time. We still don't know if the Marshall trip is coming through or not. We are to learn today. Maryanna talked to Dr. Ely Thursday and he was doubtful. The problem arose when the grid area became available to us in August and September. We now need another ship for the Marshall trip.

I'm glad that so many Bulwers have been found and are incubating. At least this was good news from Sand.

Best regards,

A. Binion Amerson, Jr.

July 5, 1964

Dear Maryanna:

The ATF salute to Dr. Ripley's proposed study for increasing efficiency among Smithsonian workers. I have been so inundated by remarks from the S.I. party about what Dr. Ripley can do to increase efficiency that I find it difficult to type. My ears fairly burn.

Thank you for the many bits of wit which you sent along with the numerous and rather tiresome sheet of official garbage. We were sorry not to be able to reply to earlier request but our mail schedule didn't make it possible to get the forms back before July 1.

The Fairy Island Times has officially folded its doors due to lack of enthusiasm, will power and mainly lack of intelligent writers. Such snide remarks as: "We have heard of fair weather sailors but never of all weather sickers" died much to Bob Long's pleasure.

The attempt to put booby jokes on a par with elephant jokes now hangs on Miss Hall's willingness to put the enclosed sheet in the droppings.

As letters get shorter, tempers get longer and we might even be friendly by the time we get back to Washington - It looks like one and all will be trooping back.

regards

Fred

P.S. My major reason for writing this letter was to comment on your work so far toward the annual report. Although you may feel that Mr. Wirtz's contributions to the first ATF trip were small this is no reason to drop him from the list of personnel for that period (Feb-March, 1963). Otherwise the report shows again your true ability along these lines.

Remind yourself and Judy to look at the Modern Living section of the June 26 Time if you don't believe that the bare bosum is coming into style.

July 4, 1964
Pago Pago, Samoa

Dear Maryanna,

Money, money, money.... Guess who needs money? I had understood that some was being sent to both Huber and me just before we left Pearl Harbor. Huber received his check but I haven't seen any sign of mine yet. If one was sent I ain't got it yet. When this cruise is over I'll have just barely enough to pay for the food bill on this ship. Then I'll be completely out of funds. The fourteen days spent in Honolulu went through my money like a tornado. If I'm to go on the Marshalls trip I'll need some new cloths and a few items of gear such as new sneakers. When we get back into Pearl Harbor I'll send along a complete accounting of all expenditures along with the receipts. So now, to more pleasant topics.

This hasn't been a very exciting trip, so far. We have hit several enormous islands that have required hours of walking for very few birds. On Malden most of the crew averaged about twenty miles per day....boy were they beat when they came back to camp each night! You've never heard such moaning and groaning as they made. Each one of them would prop himself up in a corner and then would slowly and gently peel his sneakers and socks off. Then they'd sit, holding their feet tenderly in their grimy hands, and moan and groan some more. But I played it smart and didn't have to do all of that horrible walking.

The first night on Malden I was gracefully galloping along hot on the trail of a stupid Blue-faced Booby that was attempting a get-away (showing Doug Gill how us experts do it without getting beaten up) when suddenly a nasty rock (one that had deliberately camoflaged itself to look like a harmless shadow in the moonlight) rose up out of nowhere and viciously smote my toes one Hell of a nasty smote. My graceful galloping charge disintegrated into chaos as my ass abruptly caught up with my ears and I landed in a huge cloud of dust. Doug Gill appeared at first to be overjoyyed as he jumped up and down saying "marvelous, incredibly marvelous". I was just about ready to let him have one when I realized he was merely commenting upon my wonderfully rich vocabulary (which I was using to heap abuse upon the scurvy-stone that had so abruptly turned mastery to mess.) Ho hum, nothing unusual --- all in a day's work us ATF's always say. While the rest of my toes remained their usual pale shrivveled up selves two others became technicolor spectaculars - simply a riot of colors -- it looked just like spring in the Shanendoahs.

After Malden we spent three days on Starbuck which was another of these large islands that require hour after hour of walking. In order to band birds we had to make a four hour round trip- walking at top speed. This walk was improved immeasurably the last night when we got caught out in a very cold, penetrating rain storm. We left Starbuck the next morning and then spent five terribly boring days on the ship on the way to Pago Pago. For the last two days, since we were so far ahead of schedule, the ship wallowed along at a miserable 2 knots per hour. One day, according to the stars, we made exactly no headway at all for a 9 hour period - just sat and sloshed around in the same spot all day long. We finally pulled into good old, unexciting Pago Pago yesterday morning and have done very little of interest since. This place doesn't change much in the course of two months so we were greeted at the dock by the same bunch of bums that greated the Lipan. The ice cream still tastes bland and the Mack Trucks are still the queens of the highways. Let's go to Tahiti next trip!!!!

I suppose I'll be back at the SI when I get there whenever that will be. See all you lovely girls then.

Love xxx
Doug H.

July 6 Letter from Dr. Ely says he has received letter from Huber stating - I'm sorry about everything.

July 2

Dear Binion,

thanks for the wooden nest markers; they are perfect.

The situation here is becoming worse & worse with the Coast Guard personnel. They are bucking practically everything we do now, not to mention the remarks that are thrown our way. Your message concerning the collection of ticks was never even given to us. We inquired about a message after receiving your letter & Ray was here at the time. From now, we were told, we would not be informed of messages. Instead a daily check must be made by us.

Our shipment of birds consists of 21 frigates & 11 red-footed boobies. Catching was very difficult & finally we had to resort to the frigate colony. Out of the total number of frigates, 18 were taken from the colony, however none of these had chicks. Only 3 frigates (2 of these banded) & 4 boobies could be taken from the guy wires & other roosting areas. We even used a 20 foot pole with a hook at the top to pull the birds from the wires, but it didn't help us much. Even most of our immature red-foots were taken from near the frigate colony.

Items that we need are:

1. postage labels for manila envelops (not specimen labels)
2. scalpel blades for #4 handle
   #11 scalpel blades for #3 handle
3. Memorandum books (5)

✓ 4. Record book (2)
✓ 5. Headlamps
✓ 6. Stationary
✓ 7. 5 or 6 lined tablets of paper
✓ 8. The book "Birds of the Ocean"
✓ 9. Dick wants: a. pair of soft gloves (he said you knew what kind)
b. bone skeins (if available)

10. Terry Sutcliffe has been asking when you are going to send him his books or magazines, or whatever you promised him. I can well imagine what he's asked for.

Binoculars NOT thru the U.S. mail

We now have 6 pairs of Bulwer's incubating + 3 other pairs will soon be joining the ranks. Hope to do some change over studies on them, as it looks possible, even though it will be quite limited to pairs.

The wedgetail plot was abandoned because the burrows were too deep. Instead a study plot has been set up on the islet which is coming along very well. Also scattered burrows about the island have been marked for study. With the islet + the island, 40 nests have been marked.

That seems all to be of interest now.

Regards,

David

P. S. Our Paint Shaker arrived today.

July 2, 1964

Dear Maryanna:

Glad to hear the fair has provided all you could desire. What a shock to all of us to find that you had gone with Rose and Judy. A person could perhaps stand one at a time but both togeather and the poor fair had to put up with all three of you at once...

Long continues to send his love being too sick to say more. It to hard to summarize what the rest of them say about you they're such a talkative bunch. In fact we have started the movie critics discussion league, the forum for modern ideas, philosophy 906 and the student non violent league for serving peanut butter in the wardroom. In the rest of our spare time, this captain has a great ability for wasting time at sea, we send get well cards to Long, terrorize the birdge and in general spread peace and disorder throughout the ship.

The Fairy Island times my not make it out until late as everyone is spending their time talking. The progress reports have been mailed earlier and all other important matters will probably be discarded.

If the ship doesn't sink, the incompetant crews don't kill us all in the surf or we don't all go ATF crazy we will be back in Pearl Harbor in late July. Unfortunately the late July arrival is running a poor fourth at present. In any case am I still cleared to go to the AOU meetings in Kansas? If Peggy comes to Honolulu I will fly to Kansas instead of driving.

Peter says I have a very understanding wife in that if he marries he doesn't want his wife to let him write to other women. If you know any young lady who wants to make this a better world to live in you might suggest that she try recivilizing Mr. Gill, Marshall and Huber. I don't think America is ready for their frank and direct way of describing life.

fred

enclosed find photographs of the happy, happy, sick ATF crew - we cut out all shots of the ATF salute.

6c.

AIRMAIL

July 2, 1964

Dr. Philip S. Humphrey
c/o Dr. Robert E. Shope
Belém Virus Laboratory
Caixa Postal 636
Belém, Pará, Brazil

Dear Phil:

A week has flitted by since Hoeman and I got back from Alaska and now that things have settled to a dull roar it appears to be as good a time as any to brief you on developments. A trip report for the record will be completed soon and this together with copies of followup correspondence which you will receive soon will fill you in more completely on what was accomplished up north.

Very briefly, the story is this. We couldn't uncover a scrap of evidence that Central Pacific migrants used the Aleutian Islands in any number or any degree of regularity either for assembly grounds, food, or for resting. While it goes without saying that some of the species we are interested in must depend upon these islands for spring or fall migratory needs it might take several man-years of effort to learn even the rudiments of this, travel and extent of area to be searched being the problems they are. So, after talking with Bob Jones at Cold Bay, who could not suggest even one promising lead based on his years of familiarity up there, we gave up thoughts of going further out the Chain. Bob was our last hope.

Max and Vin seem enthusiastic that a really interesting and potentially significant, summer's work has been lined up however. The schedule for them appears about as follows: July 6 to 31 - on St. Paul making observations and experimenting with bird capture techniques; August - both men on St. George all month making observations, capturing, and banding ruddy turnstones which occur on the order of thousands or greater, "tens of thousands" according to one observer; September - one or both men on South West or South East Capes (or both) St. Lawrence Island making observations, capturing and banding golden plovers which reportedly assemble there prior to migration, at least on South West Cape.

Both men will probably return to Washington in late September or in October. September's work on St. Lawrence will depend on when they can get off St. George - there being no air transport and the schedule of the single supply ship being uncertain.

We were invited to explore the opportunity of furnishing an observer or two on one or more BCF High Seas Salmon Investigation cruises which are carried out in the North Pacific and Bering Sea on a year around basis. You will note correspondence to that effect but no decisions will need to be made until after you get back, if at all. We received some duplicate reports from our contact at the BCF Montlake Lab in Seattle of their sightings of birds at sea in the Aleutians area but much of the data appears questionable due to identification problems, in fact the overall quality does not appear to equal the similar work of the BCF Lab in Honolulu on Central Pacific sightings. I am going to send it along to Dr. Ely anyway so he can at least get an idea of the species the BCF observers <u>think</u> they are seeing.

Incidentally, the physical oceanography of the subarctic Pacific has recently been reviewed and published on bu the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (1963) and we obtained a copy from F. Favorite, BCF Biological Laboratory, Seattle, one of the three authors. This is an excellent roundup, full of meaningful charts, maps, and graphs, rather than hard to digest tables of data. Text is short (28 pages) and to the point. Several pages of bibliography are included. It does not contain anything on biological productivity however, worse luck.

All in all the trip went very well. We were extremely fortunate in finding as many contacts at home base as we did, seeing nearly everyone we hoped to plus some unexpectedly good interceptions of people enroute to various places. Best of all, I think, was the pledge by S. J. Hutchinson, Regional Director BCF in Seattle, that he would know the SI-Department of Interior agreement "as if it was directed at his Bureau." It turned out that I knew all the key people on his staff well, some of them (including Sam himself) from the days BCF and BSFW were the same Bureau. Of course all the BSFW people we met pledged cooperation to the fullest. I personally felt a bit "let down" that we could not tackle part of the work with the help of the BSFW people in the Refuge Branch who manage a number of the key waterfowl areas in Alaska. But since we couldn't seem to develop any promising leads, and exploratory surveys would be laboriously slow, Vin and I decided on the Pribilof-St. Lawrence Islands study for this summer and fall. Max seems well pleased at the prospects and Vin is enthusiastic.

I found a great mound of books piled up for me in the Library when I got back and, with John Dennis' help, these have now all been processed and are awaiting microfilming. Almost all of them contained useful information, there being few rejects. I would estimate that about 40 percent of the material resulting from the preliminary candidate search has now been microfilmed and Xerox copies of most of this is awaiting coding. Actually, I do not foresee that coding will be the problem that I once feared. Some sources may prove slow but I think the vast majority of data will fall into place quite readily.

The big snag right now is getting the material micro-filmed. Half the Natural History microfilm team (1) is out on annual leave and not due back to the end of July. Not only that but they didn't finish with the work I left for them. So as things stand, we may have to go commercial on some of the work but this can be scheduled closely enough to keep me buried for the next two months.

John Dennis is being a big help right now helping with getting the volumes ready to go for microfilming and continuing the literature search, for candidate material in general subject areas I was not able to touch the first time around. However, John is looking earnestly for steady, more remunerative, employment and I do not expect him to remain with the project after he locates something satisfactory. He seemed to weather the demotion philosophically.

I have not received Dr. Ely's thoughts or suggestions on revision of Circular Letters (May 1 deadline) and hesitate to commence this work until I do. Plan to discuss this with him this afternoon when Maryanna calls on the phone. Botany's section came in the day I left for Alaska but part of it appears missing and the rest needs reorganization. It was in pretty rough shape in my opinion. Once the section on vegetation is completed, reorganization and typing into Field Manual form should not take long.

Well this seems to be all for now. Copies of the Source Material Checklist, Prospectus, trip report, and correspondence will be coming along shortly to fill the gaps of what didn't get said. I hope everything is going well with you.

Sincerely yours,

Winston Banko
Pacific Project, Division of Birds

c: Dr. Ely

PS. We received a reprint of Hester's work on plastic wing tags as per our request to Dr. Sheldon at U. of Maryland. Copy enclosed and to Dr. Ely.

PPS. We have processed schedules in 1964 for 112,119 birds. This sets some kind of record according to the Banding Office!!

Telegram sent 7/1/64

F.S.L. Williamson
Arctic Health Research Center
Anchorage, Alaska
Delayed. Arriving July 3 PNA 723.

MAX C. THOMPSON

Book to 7-1

F. S. L. Williamson
Arctic Health Research Center
Anchorage, Alaska

Arriving NW 77 Thursday

Max C. Thompson

KURE ISLAND SUPPLIES NEEDED

as of 7-01-64

Item	Quantity
1. CHATILLON scale, type 027, capac. 20 lbs.	~~1~~
~~2.~~ loose leaf binder, 3 ring, green, for 8.5 x 11 paper	~~5~~ 2
~~3.~~ Higgins Eternal Ink, black	~~2 bottles~~ 1
~~4.~~ tape measures, steel	~~2~~ 1
5. tape measures, cloth	~~2~~ 1
~~6.~~ rubber gloves, heavy duty, dish washing type	~~1 pair~~
Ordered 7. duplicator paper, white, 8 x 13	2 reams
~~8.~~ bending pliers, assorted sizes	4 pairs
Ordered 9. hypodermic syringe, 30 cc.	1
~~10.~~ carbon sets	1 box
~~11.~~ ~~compass~~ Auxiliary, Dietzgen, field model	~~4~~ 2
12. ethyl alcohol —	2 gallons

Bill to buy in Hono.

7530-228-2102 UU-P-232B 500 SHTS. (1RM.)
PAPER, DUPLICATOR, COPY, LIQUID PROCESS ITEM 6
POTLATCH FORESTS INC. 20# WHITE 8X13
BULKLEY DUNTON LINDE & LATHROP INC.
GS-00S-39924 N002283268 6895 NEW YORK, N.Y.

SAND ISLAND FROZEN BIRD BARF*

Packaged to fit your needs

Reasonably Priced

"Guaranteed to add new birds to your
Life List (if properly used)."

(*Patent Pending)

Has your Life and Year Bird List suddenly fallen behind? SAND ISLAND FROZEN BIRD BARF* is designed to perk up your list of sea-birds. It is so powerful that birds just flock to it regardless of age or sex. They can't resist its' original aroma and juicy flavors.

SAND ISLAND FROZEN BIRD BARF* is packaged and quick-frozen right in the field and none of the predigested flavor and fishy aroma is lost in the process. Due to a very high production rate and low overhead, SAND ISLAND FROZEN BIRD BARF* can be produced, packaged, and supplied for the low, low cost of only 87¢ per pound (subject to State and Federal Taxes). A 10% discount is given on all orders over 100 pounds.

SAND ISLAND FROZEN BIRD BARF* is fully guaranteed to add new birds to your Life List. If after using this product for one full year your Life List has not increased, return the unused portion and/or as much of the used portion as possible and your FULL purchase price will be refunded. (If improperly used, however, military personnel and non-bird lovers are sure to complain about this products' aroma and appearance. Let's face it, this product is produced solely by and for the birds.)

This product is usually not carried by local merchants (thank God), so be sure to order direct from the original supplier. Don't be fooled by phoney substitutes, get the original SAND ISLAND FROZEN BIRD BARF*. Order now while supply can meet demand.

Your Distant SAND ISLAND FROZEN BIRD BARF* Dealers,

Binion Emerson

Richard W. Merrill Ph.D.
(Post hole digger)

fr-co

TRANSMUTATION

Some of the most interesting findings of the Pacific Project concern transmutation of species. So far fifteen records have come to light of species which have changed to another species — such things as Blue-faced Boobies turning into Blackfooted Albatrosses and Canada Geese turning up as Boobies. So far this phenomenum seems to be limited to the Leeward Hawaiian Islands but with increased field work and shifting of personnel it can be expected to turn up in other areas. The number of such solidly-substantiated reports clearly shows that it is actually transmutation which we are observing and not merely errors in record keeping.

Since these are the first positive examples of transmutation brought to light it seems fruitful to speculate on the usefulness of this to a bird. If we accept the fact that it is the bird which is changing and not the band (if the bird had the power to change the band size and number the Banding Office would be out of work so we will not consider that as a possibility) we can immediately see the advantage of a Canada Goose changing to a Blue-faced Booby when migrating through the Hawaiian Islands. Trigger-happy Pacific Project members have been instructed to shoot everything unusual and a Canada Goose would not survive long under the assembled fire power while a Blue-faced Booby would be overlooked easily.

Are we not overlooking numerous unusual records (i.e. rare birds posing as a common species)? Should we shoot all birds? How does one actually tell the true identity of these creatures? Great problems still await solution by the everready field personnel.

PLAN AHEAD

fal
Rog

I've handled all the paper-work and all offshore work for a month now. Here is your chance to go through my progress report and banding schedules and find something to show what a incompentant I am.

I thought you packed your own bag.

I need band. Ineed Bands. I need bands. I need bands.

I need bands. I need bands. I need bands.

I need bands. I need bands.

I NEED BANDS.

Please?

Say hi to Rog. It just doesn't seem natural not being given the 3rd degree all the time.

There ought to be someone stationed here for so offshore island work all the time.

How many Bulwer's pertel has the project banded so far. Right now I have 102.

I am up with Ely now in white eyes skined. A couple more and I will be able to do one as well as he.

Bulwer are fasinating. They take life so calm and easily I don't see how they servive in this rush rush world.
Have you ever talked with a Bulwer?

Could you see about rushing my receits through. I am running out .Sears nets are no good. I am still shopping around. I bought a six man rubber boat for offshore work. It works pretty good. The number of birds here is fantastic. Thousands upon thousands.of both WTS and sooties. This is really great, band all night with birds that are so thick that the only thing that slows the banding is the banding itself, not the finding of birds as in the southern island. Band all night and sleep most of the day. I bought some rat traps and am going to try and get a series of mongeese. I've got two so far.
If there is an island in the pacific that has a lot of Bulwer on it drop me on it and leave me.
If possible could you get me about a 7 to 12 inch long needle and mail it out here. Ask Mr Perrygo were he sent me to get some needles for him before. The place is only about 5 blocks from SI. but I can't remember the name of the store. Well I Guess I's said all I have

AIRMAIL

June 26, 1964

David Bratley
Dick Merrill
Smithsonian Party
US Coast Guard LORAN Station
APO 105
San Francisco, California

Dear Dick and Dave:

Ray Jillson left yesterday for Sand although he is stopping in Los Angeles for the weekend. He is to bring the albino back with the rest of the birds. We have made arrangements to keep it at the National Zoo. They do not have any Sooty Terns at all, so I asked if they wanted some normal ones also. We can just as easily bring back eight as we can one. We are shipping today two of the partitioned bird boxes. Use one of them and send the albino plus 7 normal almost flying chicks. They didn't want adults since they would be harder to keep. Go ahead and get 7 normal chicks and keep them in the other box until time to be shipped. This will get them used to being fed and handled.

Try to make partitions for the large boxes so that 2 Frigates can be placed in one box. Use the large (4x8') sheets of cardboard. These are going to present a problem when cutting. An electric or hand saw might work. The partitions can be taped in place.

Ticks are also desired. These will go to the same place as the Frigates and Boobies. They would like another 1,000 if possible, but get as many as you can. The shipment I sent by Ken Amerman survived the trip in excellent condition. This was the method I described to you and which is again discussed in the enclosed "tick collecting" information sheet.

I hope you have a large quantity of frozen bird barf so Ray can bring some back. It would be better if the packages were small, so thawing and refreezing would be no problem.

Would you finish taking the black and white roll of film in the Project camera and send the exposed roll to DC. I will need some of those pictures when I return from my vacation. I'm taking next week off. As a matter of fact, I'm leaving this afternoon.

The black and white pictures Dick took from the top of the tower are very good. I have put them together and made a composit of the island. It looks very impressive. I think we will even be able to count Sooties in some areas.

Here's hoping that the bird shipment doesn't create too many headaches.

Best regards,

A. Binion Amerson, Jr.

Enclosures

6/-u

OTFHN WWA 74 SI

WASHINGTON DC 6-26-64 1008R

DAVID A BRATLEY SMITHSONIAN PARTY

US COAST GUARD LORAN STATION JOHNSTON ISLAND AFB HAWAII

COLLECT AS MAY LIVE TICKS AS POSSIBLE OPTIMUM 1,000 FOR RETURN VIA JILLSON.

BINION AMERSON SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

1,000

BN 1123R

file f/c

AIRMAIL

June 26, 1964

Hello -

Just decided to be the first to have worked on the Annual Report - here is the breakdown of personnel whens and wheres. I really feel like an active part of the project now - I too have set a record!!

Maryanna Grellow

Fred Sibley
Bill Wirtz
Binion Amerson
Pat Gould
Dr. Ely

51

NNNNVZCZCDAA337

RR RUHLKA

DE RUECTDA 06 29 1758Z

ZNR

R 25 [illegible]Z

FM MARYANNA SHELLOW SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE WASHDC

TO DAVID BRATLEY SMITHSONIAN PART [illegible] COAST SHARP [illegible]

STATION JOHNSTON ISLAND AFB

PDS CRNC

BT

UNCLAS

* MOVE LIVE BIRD [illegible] FROM JOHNSTON TO [illegible].

* COLLECT AND FREEZE SIX DAYS FOOD SUPPLY FOR ALBINO

BT

FIBN WWA 138 SI

WASHINGTON DC 6-25-64 1225R

DR CHARLES ELY

6139 PAHUKULA ST KUKIOUOU HAWAII

JILLSON ARRIVES HONOLULU 11:10 AM JUNE 30. NEEDS INSTRUCTIONS ON

1. ORDERS TO SAND

2. RESERVATIONS AND PLANE SCHEDULE TO SAND

3. AEC BADGE

4. PERMITS

5. TRUCK FROM HICKAM TO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

6. ADDRESS AND CONTACT FOR CABLE CONCERNING EPA AT SALT LAKE.

MARYANNA SMELLOW

11:10 30 1 2 3 4 5 6

WU 1309R

AIRMAIL

June 25, 1964

Mr. Fred Sibley
Smithsonian Party
USS Takelma (ATF 113)
FPO, San Francisco, California

Dear Fred:

How is ATF life these days? Gee, it's terribly hot here but the air-conditioned SI is rather pleasant for a change. I'm afraid I'll lose my tan quite fast.

I talked to Peggy last weekend and she was quite excited over her trip to Hawaii. I'm sure you both will enjoy it. I am taking next week off myself.

I am in charge of the Marshall trip (among other things). Chuck wanted me to check over the itinerary you made up. After talking to Dr. Fosberg who has visited most of the Marshalls and reading the literature (what little there is) I changed the original schedule. We will be visiting more of the unhibited or low populated atolls. Only one you listed is now included. Since the Gilberts are British and we couldn't find out much about the large bird colonies in that group, we decided to cut out the Gilberts this trip and stick only to the Marshalls. Still refueling may be a problem, but I'm hoping they can do it at Kwajalein. I don't know if the crew can take liberty there though. If not maybe they can go to one of the larger atolls where there are lots of people (Majuro possibly). There would be just too much time wasted in going to Pago Pago. The two party idea was very good and would have worked but Dr. Fosberg said that Majuro would be the last place in the Marshalls he would go to for birds. A supply problem exists, however, if we split up and stay on uninhibited islands for 15 + - days. There is a possibility that the trip will not come through. We now can get into the grid in July, August, and September, so the ship may be tied up there. However, there is a chance that we can get a second ship during August and September. We will know by July 1. Anyway, if we don't go to the Marshalls now, we may later when the grid is closed.

Well, after a year I've finally met Roger. It seems that it's been that long since I last saw you. We will just cross each other's paths at the end of July if the Marshall trip comes through. By the way, Chuck and Phil wanted Huber and Hackman to go on the Marshall trip since they are such good banders. This is going to mean getting off one ship and right on another.

We had to order more orange strip material for Sand. We almost ran out banding Sooty chicks. We set 20,000 as a goal but almost had that many done when I left. I quickly sent 25,000 more down there. We found the wire fence works wonders. We built two circles of wire mesh (1/4") 15" high and about 5' in diameter with a 1 x 1 strip across the center so the hoop could be picked up. This can be used during the day by herding and placing the hoop over the herd. The best method was using the hoop as a holding pen while catching the chicks by net. We could catch several hundred in a few minutes by net, put them in the pen and then stand in one place and band. A 30 inch high pen works for adults also. A person can stand inside banding while another catches adults by hand net.

You must have run into a large colony of Gray-backed Terns, Bulwer's Petrels, or Fairy Terns to need 2,000 more No. 2 bands. Roger and I couldn't imagine what else it could be. We thought probably the Gray-backs but maybe either of the latter two. I hope you have been looking for orange strips. You knew that a Frigate and also 2 Sooties all with orange strips turned up on Kure last month. Also recently Kepler saw a Noddy on Manana with an orange strip and one of the Audubon members saw a marked Sooty on Manana. The color marking is finally paying off in sight records. The"at-sea"crew have also been seeing a good many. Before leaving Sand I picked up the blue-tagged Noddy that Bushman tagged on Eniwetok in 1961. We marked it with our color, banded it, photographed it and then released it. The bird was nesting within 10 feet of where it nested last year. We only saw this bird last year.

The latest Droppings will give you all the latest on the personnel here in DC.

Try to collect some more Mallophaga from those Petrels and Shear-waters down in the Phoenix area, especially the ones that don't occur in the Hawaiian area. Also some nest fauna samples are needed from their burrows. These can be run through the Berlese funnels. Don't sort the resulting alcohol mixture, just place the liquid in large vials. Jayc Cee can sort the material here.

Hope the weather has been very good for this trip and the sea very calm so no one has gotten sea-sick.

Best regards,

A. Binion Amerson, Jr.
Research Curator
Division of Birds
Pacific Project

AIRMAIL

June 24, 1964

David Bratley
Richard Merrill
Smithsonian Party
US Coast Guard LORAN Station
APO 105
San Francisco, California 96305

Dear Dick and Dave:

I hope the orange strips sent from here arrived before you gave out. Of course that TWX concerning the orange material sent from Sand on June 4 didn't arrive until the 9th. Maryanna ordered more on the 8th the day after I arrived. We got the material Thursday afternoon and sent the first shipment on Friday. There were approximately 5000 in that box. The assistants have been cutting more also. The shop is making 2 "strip slitters" which should be finished this morning. I'll try to have the next shipment pre-slit (but not pre-inserted).

Wooden sticks (actually flower pot markers) were purchased and sent this morning. They are a cross between a popsicle stick and a tongue depressor. You asked about labels in your letter. I suppose you are talking about large Pacific Project, USNM ones for birds. There should be over 100 somewhere there in the cubicle. Some arrived before I left in that large shipment. I thought I put them in the skinning box. They may be in the trunk also. If you can't find them or this isn't what you are talking about, write me again. I would go ahead and send some anyway, but the present supply here is very low.

My tape recorder arrived in excellent condition. The outside carton was a little beat up but there wasn't a scratch on the recorder. It works fine also and I'm well satisfied. The customs limit is $300 and I had no problem at all. The Post Office was holding it as I had to sign for it.

As Chuck has written you, there will be a bird shipment on the 3rd of July. Ray Jillson will come down to help catch the birds over a 2 day period. They want as many frigates as possible (up to 75) and as many Red-footed Boobies as possible. Try to get some of the immature and sub-adult Red-foots which sit around the nests at night. Don't get banded birds, however. Try to catch the frigates as best you can. We were not

able to get a canon net. I don't know where you can store the boxes containing the frigates for 2 days since they may be smelly. The Boson's locker is the only place, I suppose, since the boxes can't get wet. Ray will have further details on the shipment and will arrive July 1st.

We sent a series of 25,000 bands (No. 3's) to you last week also. Use the first 10,000 on chicks, if possible. Use up the old No. 3's on hand on adults before starting in this new prefix series. Reserve some of the old ones for Noddies.

I am busy (at night) editing my movie film. Most of it came out real good. The "night shots" came out extremely good.

Best regards,

A. Binion Amerson, Jr.
Research Curator
Division of Birds
Pacific Project

51

6/44

NNNNVZCZCDAA772

RR RUECC

DE RUECTDA 70 22/2020Z

ZNR

R 222016Z

FM MARYANNA SHELLOW SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION WASH D C

TO FRED C SIBLEY SMITHSONIAN PARTY USS TAKELMA (ATF113) FPO SAN

FRANCISCO CALIF

POS CRNC

BT

UNCLAS

NEED URGENT HELP IN LOCATING DR. VETMORE'S 1923 FIELD NOTES.

HAVE LOOKED ALL LOGICAL PLACES. PLEASE ADVVISE IN DETAIL.

BT

RECEIVED (a)
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
1964 JUN 24 AM 10: 02
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

NNNN

VZCZCDAA952

RR RUECC

DE RUECTDA 064 23/1657Z

ZNR

R 231657Z

FM MARYANNA SMELLOW SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION WASHDC

TO FRED C SIBLEY SMITHSONIAN PARTY USS TAKELMA /ATF113/ FPO

SAN FRANCISCO CALIF

PBS CRNC

BT

UNCLAS

WETMORE'S NOTES FOUND RAND R UNDERWAY.

BT

RECEIVED (A)
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

1964 JUN 24 AM 10:02

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

AIRMAIL

June 24, 1964

Smithsonian Party
USS Takelma (ATF 113)
c/o FPO, San Francisco, California

Gentlemen:

Many thanks for your prompt and full report on the progress of your field work. This office is most appreciative of any information which you can supply as we are constantly receiving demands from the contracting agency for additional data. Dr. Humphrey was particularly impressed with this latest report and thought its presentation one of the clearest he had encountered. There are a few discrepancies, however, and I am not sure how to interpret some of your 'bare fact' statements. Would you be so kind as to clarify those parts I have marked?

I am most appreciative.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs) Maryanna Smellow
Research Secretary
Division of Birds

Enclosure
Full Report - AIF trip - submitted June 1, 1964.

f c

f

June 17, 1964

Dear Binion:

The marking of noddy terns nests is presenting a problem. It is difficult to keep track of the egg numbers without some type of marking device. Many of the egg dates placed on rocks alongside the nests just prior to hatching time are either lost or washed out, so incubation length also is lost, unless part of the eggshell remains after hatching. Therefore, we thought it might be best if popsicle sticks or something very similar were sent out for the purpose of nest marking. I believe these could be used effectively in most places. Presently there are approximately 150 eggs marked, but I think at least 300 ought to be sent. Another thought would be small discs which could be placed in the bottom of the nests, as paper poker chips or similar device. Popsicle sticks could be broken to serve the same purpose, therefore would better for all around purposes.

Sent 6/24/64

also Cardinal

Regards,

David A. Bratley

David A. Bratley

Also:

1. labels are needed
2. was the light socket sent the other day for installation in a drying box for skins?
3. Dick wants to know if your tape recorder arrived + in what shape.

AIRMAIL

June 16, 1964

Mr. Kenneth E. Amerman
Smithsonian Institution,
Division of Birds
PO Box 9187
Honolulu, Hawaii 96820

Dear Ken:

You are today, deeper in debt by $277. Think of me when spending each nickel.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs) Maryanna Smellow
Research Secretary
Division of Birds

Enclosure
SI Check $277.

FSE WUA 173 SI

WASHINGTON DC 6-15-64 1601R

WINSTON BANKO

C/O ROBERT D JONES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGEMGR BSFW COLD BAY ALASKA

DISCUSS WITH JONES POSSIBLE EFFECT OF CATTLE GRAZING ON ALEUTIAN IDS CANADA AND EMPORER GOOSE POPULATIONS AND CARIBOU ON UNIMAK.

PHIL HUMPHREY

KAY 1607R

June 14, 1964

Dear Maryanna:

Bob sends his love - ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~. I understand the rest of the crew got togeather with Bob and sent you a photograph from Palmyra Island so I quess I don't need to write for them.

Most people here need money in order to buy their way off the ship in July. Could you pry some loose from that office staff of yours.

I'm thinking of staying out in Honolulu an extra week after getting back from this cruise. Partly to show Peggy around but also to pack up the ATF supplies for the Oct.-Nov. trip. The confusion this time was almost as bad as in Feb. If someone else is going to take over the Oct-Nov. trip things should be in some semblance of shape as neither Hackman or Huber are going to have any time to organize after this trip or before the next one.

What does a 500 pound canary say as it flies down the alley? Here kitty, kitty, kitty.

Life so far has been mass confusion. Schedule changed so we had to leave Palmyra two days early, Jarvis dropped from the schedule and then Long got stranded on Washington Island with all the booze and wahines for threee days. We are now looking forward to land fall off Christmas Island in an hour or so at which time the fearless and eager Smithsonian party will charge ashore looking for more, as yet undiscovered, secrets of nature.

How are the aleutians, at-sea, Binion, Fleet, et al doing. The whole truth now. Non of this cover up for Fleet. What did Linda really say as she went over the typewritter or has Bob changed.?

regards

Fred

WESTERN UNION TELEX SERVICE

1964 JUN 11 PM 6 34

TLX307 GOVT PD

WASHINGTON DC 11 630P EDT

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE

WASHDC JEFFERSON DRIVE BET 9TH AND 12TH ST SW

292

112040Z

A. INFO MARYANNA SMELLOW DIVISION BIRDS

1. ORDER ORANGE STEAMER MATERIAL IMMEDIATELY FEW MARKERS REMAIN.

RUSH SHIPMENT. REQUEST 10000 NO. THREE BANDS.

2. WILL ARRIVE HICKAM 1630 12 JUNE. C. A. ELY, B. AMERSON.

CGLORSTA JOHSTON

WU TLX WSH

NAVCOMSTA WSH

RECEIVED (A)
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
1964 JUN 15 AM 10: 37
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

fw

Bering Sea Hotel
Nome
June 10, 1964

Dear Phil:

This is a somewhat belated attempt to bring you up to date on our activities before you leave for Brazil.

Briefly, the trip has gone exceedingly well so far. We've contacted an amazing number of informed persons ~~so far~~ and are getting some good tips. St. Paul is in the bay for a week or two late in July or early August — until the boat leaves for St. George. We have made definite arrangements with B.C.F. for transe. of some gear, lodging, and transportation from St. Paul to St. George and return. Sam Hutchinson, Regional Director of B.C.F. in Seattle, whom I know very well, said he would honor our B.S.F.&W. agreement as if it included B.C.F. We can't get better cooperation than that!

We are now looking for a Golden plover operation the last 3 weeks of September

when most apparently leave for the south. St. Lawrence Island seems like a good prospect as ~~there~~ Sauer reports (2nd hand) that golden plovers concentrate the last 2 weeks of September before taking off. We have an appointment with Col. Smith the C.O. at Southwest Cape for some exploratory conversations & visits sometime day after tomorrow. We will fly over via Wales and stay a couple of days, Col. Smith volunteering accommodations and full cooperation.

The spring is very delayed this year, apparently setting some new records. In fact the pack ice is very visible from the Hotel — the Isis supply boat of the year still offshore unable to get in. The delayed breakup may foul up normal southbound migration and this is something that we will have to be alert to.

We have not yet contacted Jones at Cold Bay, kept to talk by phone from Kenai. Jones is planning an expedition to the Near Islands (Aggatu, especially) for summer and is making a trip to Adak this week but

will be back on the 13th. after which we plan to see him. Just how much farther out the Chain we will go will depend on what we learn from him.

So far we have had wonderful cooperation from everyone. A FWS vehicle placed at our disposal at every stop and great interest shown in our goals. Potentially productive banding sites now seem assured for the summer (assuming either Sf. Lawrence or Igavik works out for golden plover). Sure-fire capturing methods seem to be the only large problem and we can only hope Thompson and Herman can come up with them. Knowing Herman a bit now I feel sure they will do it if it is at all possible.

We are "right on the button" schedule-wise on this trip so should be back June 20-25 as planned. Will mail you a complete trip report later of course but wanted you to have some good word from us before you left.

Good luck on your Brazil trip.

Sincerely,

W. Banks

AM

V

FWN WUA 200 SI

WASHINGTON DC 6-10-64 1546R

DR CHARLES A ELY

6139 PAHUKULA ST KULIOUOU HAWAII

HUSTED AND KEPLER ARRIVE HONOLULU 740 PM JUNE 11TH.

MARYANNA SWELLOU

740 11TH

KAY 1600R

RECEIVED (A)
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
1964 JUN 12 AM 9 51
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 9, 1964

Dear Everybody, No not Everybody; just: Ken, Bin, Dave, Bob, Win, Vin, Warren, Chuck, Janice, Dick, Bob, Bob, Doug, Nancy, Bill, George, Paul, and, and,.....and, I guess that's all!!

I am enclosing some information on the new life insurance plan offered by the SI to private role employees. If you are worried about those dependents you are leaving scattered in the field - e.g., Sand, Pago Pago - this is not a bad deal. Unfortunately you won't be here for the meeting on the 12th so you will have to read for yourself and ask your local GS-11 for help with the big words.

They are anxious to have all the forms returned as soon as possible, so please fill out either the pink or white card (this will have no effect on your clearance) and return no later than July 1.

Donna Shapiro came back to work today for the summer and she has spent most of the day saying: "Where's X; Where's Y now;" "Is Z still on Sand?" etc., etc. You may each have to put in an appearance here this summer to show off your beards to her!!

Just in case you don't want to use Viola R. Doe as beneficiary, I have a short list - very short, only one name - which is available even without request!! Yes, my middle initial is "B".

'Bye now,

Maryanna Smellow

Enclosures

Copies to:

B. Amerson
K. Amerman
W. Banko
D. Bratley
Dr. Ely, Janice
R. Fleet
Nancy Halliday
V. Hoeman
W. King
D. Merrill
B. Standen
B. Sundell
D. Whitman
B. Wirtz
G. Wislocki
P. Woodward
B. Long
C. Tuggle

Sand. - Cold roster

June 6, 1964

Poem of the week:

The bee is such a busy soul
He has no time for birth control
And this is why, in times like these
There are so many sons-of-bees.

The above is not original, but was quoted to us by one of the C.G. personnel here at Sand.

WESTERN UNION TELEX SERVICE

WESTERN UNION TELEX SERVICE

WESTERN UNION TELEX SERVICE

DD

TELEX
THIS MESSAGE RECEIVED DIRECT FROM SENDER VIA W.U. TELEX

WU TLX WSH

NAVCOMSTA WSH

1964 JUN 4 PM 4 17

TLX154 GOVT PD

WASHINGTON DC 04 314P EDT

SMITHSONIAN INST WASHDC

258

JEFFERSON DRIVE BET 9TH AND 12TH ST SW

TLX

040615Z

A. SMITHSONIAN INST-INFO MARYANNA SMELLOW, DIV. BIRDS

B. COMHAWSEAFRONT-INFO COL HUSON, PASS TO DR. C. A. ELY

1. 75 FRIGATES AVAILABLE EARLY JULY. PRESENT METHODS NOT SATISFACTRY TO CATCH QUANITY DESIRED IN SHORT TIME. CANON NET MIGHT WORK.

2. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO BRING ALBINO SOOTY TERN CHICK TO DC W EN I RETURN. NEED PERMISSION FROM MATS HEADQUARTERS AND CUSTOMS PERMIT. ADVISE POSSIBILITY OF RAISING IT AT S. I. ZOO.

SIGNED: B. AMERSON

COAST GUARD LORAN STS JOHNSTON ISLAND

FBI A 25

04 June 1964

Dear Bill:

Everything is just fine here as you will see by the current report. We have had a 10 degree rise in mean temperature which makes the days rather unpleasant. We finally managed to get to Sand Is. and did some work there (see report). I will probably see you in a few days but will sent this now with following supply list.

George W. is taking over and learning all phases of the operation. He is very competent and will do a very good job until you get back.

The following supplies would help ;

1. 20 lb. cap. CHATILLON scale, type 027. Quantity one.
2. 3-ring loose leaf binder, (green), 8.5 x 11. Quantity three.
3. Tape measures. Steel and <u>cloth</u>. Quantity, one each.
4. Ink, black, Higgins Eternal. Quantity, one bottle.
5. Rubber gloves, women's dish washing type, medium heavy duty. Quantity five pair.

Did these stuff get sent to Kure. B.O.D.

As Always

Bob Fleet

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 3, 1964

(Mrs.) Maryanna Smellow
Division of Birds
Smithsonian Institution
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Maryanna:

This morning we shipped a box of eggs collected over the last two months. I hope they arrive unbroken. Each is individually wrapped and the data is written on the egg in most cases. Other collections will be in the mail shortly.

I received the TWX this noon and quickly got an answer back to you. The frigates are here, but catching them is another problem. I do not want to disturb the nesting colony. They do roost on the small SW islet at night but fly when disturbed. I suggest a canon net to catch all of these at once. I think there would be enough. We could use the net later for banding purposes also.

I also would like to bring the albino Sooty Tern chick back to D.C. with me. I think that it would be desirable to raise it to an adult. I thought that the zoo there in D.C. could do this since it is run by the Smithsonian. I do not know how rare the bird is, but it certainly is unusual. I do not think that it should be kept out here for several reasons. One, I would hate to see something happen to it. When one of these Coast Guardsman gets drunk, there is always a chance that something might happen to it. It hasn't happened so far, but I don't want to push our luck to far. Two, our food supply will run out when the adult sooties leave. We can get frozen squid and fish in D.C. all year long. Three, it would be of more value as an adult. There are problems in bringing it back to D.C., however. First, I need authorization from MATS headquarters to carry it on a MATS plane. Then I'll need necessary permits to get through customs. If it's impossible at the present time maybe we can wait until the next bird shipment. Someone should take it all the way to D.C., however. If I bring it, I will bring enough food to keep it fed along the way. The S.I.F.B.B.C. might come in handy after all.

I had hoped to leave here at the end of next week. The construction crew is suppose to leave late Friday. They will be through with all of their heavy work by then. Only painting the tower will be left. I am staying after they leave to ascertain their total damages and start everything off again.

I received your card which you sent from the World's Fair. I appreciate it very much. We had about begun to believe that no one was writing any more. We have also missed the weekly droppings. Dr. Ely never writes either.

When we want to find out anything, we have to call via the Ham outfit. It took two weeks to get a roll of hardward cloth from Honolulu.

I may want to take a short vacation after I get back. I'll have to see about this after I arrive.

See you all soon.

Best regards,

Binion

A. B. Amerson, Jr.

fc

51

NNNNVZCZCDAA463

RR RUHLHA

DE RUECTDA 50 03/2000Z

ZNR

R 031906Z

FM MARYANNA SHELLOW SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION WASHINGTON DC

TO DINION AMERSON US COAST GUARD LORAN STA JOHNSTON ISLAND AFB

PDS GRNC

BT

UNCLAS

ADVISE IF POSSIBLE TO COLLECT 75 LIVE FRIGATES IN EARLY JULY.

BT

RECEIVED (?)
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
1964 JUN -5 AM 8:29
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

AIRMAIL

June 3, 1964

Mr. Fred C. Sibley
Smithsonian Party
USS Takelma (ATF 113)
FPO, San Francisco, California

Dear Fred:

The Smithsonian Institution has asked that all private roll employees be issued the enclosed information on a Life Insurance plan. If 75 percent of the employees enroll in the plan, the SI will sponsor it; or something to that effect. Anyway - please nag each and every one of the SI party (including Sibley) to return either the affirmative or negative card immediately. The SI has an outside deadline of July 1.

More letter type stuff later, it is so quite here it is hard to adjust.

"Bye,

Maryanna Smellow

Enclosure

PS. Got all the mail - it was like Christmas card time!

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Zip Code 96305

May 28, 1964

(Mrs.) Maryanna Smellow
Division of Birds
Smithsonian Institution
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Maryanna:

Under separate cover I am sending three rolls of exposed film and one roll of developed film and prints. Please try to have the exposed film developed and printed by the time I return. If the S.I. photo lab does the work, please stress that these cannot be replaced. Some of the shots were taken from atop the antenna, looking down on the bird colony. I would like 8 x 10 prints of these. Someone may have to look at the film after it is developed to tell the photo lab which ones to enlarge.

Also under separate cover I am sending a skin of a Red-footed Booby. We don't want to keep it out here due to the high humidity.

I suppose that Dr. Ely has informed you of the current construction and repair work on the "C" antenna in the Bird colony. I was extremely worried about their effect on the birds when they first arrived. I could just see everything destroyed and messed up. We have spent all of our time since the crew arrived herding Sooty chicks and moving eggs and chicks of other birds. Very few chicks have been killed but a good number of eggs have been destroyed. The frigate and booby colonies were not bothered, at least so far. The workers have also cooperated fully. A civilian Coast Guard inspector is here also (from Honolulu). He is also very cooperative and has agreed to put in his report a recommendation that future work be done in the late Fall when the bird population is low. I think it best that I stay down here until the work crew leaves, which will be in about another 10 days to 2 weeks.

Enclosed you will find a check which I would like for you to forward for me. It is for my apartment rent for June. Somehow I have misplaced the address to send it. Will you look in the phone book and get the address of the Trenton Park Apartments on Sixth Street S.E. It should be sent to a Mrs. Thompson at that address. You might also call and tell them that I won't be back until mid June.

Some other items that we need are as follows: assorted screws, bolts and nuts, and nails. 4 hinges (1 inch wide). 2 hasps. 2 locks.

Best regards,

Bill

A. B. Amerson, Jr.
Division of Birds

May 20, 1964

Dear Chuck,

Many thanks for the prompt return of the several sections on bird identification with the accompanying comments. The aids from experienced field observers like yourself will really be the backbone of the guide and make it very useful, I believe. Pat is now adding his comments to my sections on boobies, tropicbirds, shearwaters, etc.

Whether the guide will be of much help in the field remains to be seen. This is something to aim for, and perhaps with generous help from our most experienced field observers we can achieve this.

I am hopeful that with the species accounts and island sections now getting into the field, that this will be an inspiration to get this material up to date. Fred tells me that he plans to do this for the Phoenix Islands. The punch card data, I might add, are extremely few for most islands and merely show how little is known.

Regarding my pending assignment to Kure, I am looking forward to it, and, of course, fully recognize that it isn't going to be a picnic. It will be like getting back to my former work with Kooper Co. when I was studying results of chemical repellents in some of that hot country in Texas and southern Louisiana.

Possibly you can tip me off as to the most appropriate time for me to get out to Honolulu in taking off for the Kure assignment. It might be helpful in regard to the field guide for me to spend a little time around Oahu with you people so that I can actually have some of these field identification points shown to me on live birds under field conditions. Let me know your views on this.

Life at the Smithsonian must have been quite peaceful compared with your state. Right now, however, we are having the floors tarred and tiled, and its quite an operation with all the furniture being moved and dust of ages settling everywhere. We are all taking refuge in the library right now.

With all best regards and looking forward to seeing you sometime this summer.

Sincerely,

J. Dennis

file

AIRMAIL

May 25, 1964

Dr. Charles A. Ely
6139 Pahukula Street
Kuliouou, Hawaii

Dear Dr. Ely:

Fred has been sitting here beside my desk dreaming now for several weeks and finally has had an idea!!

Since some additional chiefs will be boarding the ATF (this came from you, didn't it?) at Canton, perhaps it would be nice for the SI to get two people off. (Fred volunteered first, so don't put it on a volunteer basis!). If Huber and Hackman could fly back from Canton, it would give them a break before the Marshall-Gilbert trip.

There are problems, of course. We have tried in the past to arrange flights in and/or out of Canton and it is very difficult to pin the people down to a schedule. Last time (November, 1963) we had to have orders issued by Bushman for Clapp and Bratley to fly back from Canton and requests were made but they were not sure if there was to be a plane back until they arrived at Canton. MATS flies there non scheduled but FAA has scheduled flights. I don't understand the problems really. Can you contact the FAA in Honolulu (is there one?) to see about flights? The manager at Canton is the one who can say 'yes, this man is to go and that one is to wait' at his end if such a decision were necessary, I think, and relations with him in the past have been good (probably have a different manager by now).

Due to the time pressures, we could have the orders from Bushman sent to the men at Pago Pago.

How do you like Fred's problems?

Unproblemed,

Maryanna Smellow
Research Secretary, Division of Birds

PS. Fred likes to think ahead and be helpful -

He would like on the October-November ATF cruise:

Sibley
Wislocki
Huber
Heckman
Long
Clapp

May 22, 1964

Dear Maryanna,

Hello from the land of the swaying palms and singing birds. Life here is kinda too bad since they have so many native girls with all those damn fans and cool drinks. You would think that a person could do something by hisself but not here, you always have so many of those pain in the neck native girls walking around in....well, I shudder to think of how little... to try to do it for you. As far as news goes there is not much. The boat sank the other day and one of the buildings burned down and the antenna fell over but other than that nothing. The vegetation here is getting so high that we have to cut through it with machettes to reach the birds every day. (It grows so well because of all the bird ---- around.) The only spot not overgrown is the golf course and the mortality rate is pretty high there because the birds are always getting hit with the golf balls.

They are putting up a circus tent outside and it ought to be quite a show. At present we have tapped nets to the horns X on the giraffes and are catching the higher flying birds.

No more news so I will now make a request. We need some stuff. Not super-quick and not ultra-fast but some of it ~~soo~~ sorta soon.

- ✓A set of screw drivers, including some small ones
- ✓A couple of spools of fine thread
- ✓Assorted sizes of rubber bands
- ✓A pair of bone shears
- ✓A field note book
- ✓A hand counter
- ✓Some glue* Duco cement
- Pointed and rounded forceps
- # 3 & #4 scalpel handles
- Scalpel blades for #4 handle- #21
- ✓4-25 watt bulbs
- ✓A light socket- porcelain base light receptacle(screw mounted)
- ✓Medium sized paint brushes--1/2 & 1 inch sizes
- ✓Roll of waxed paper
- several balls 1/4 inch string

That's about all. We thank you. The only other thing I can think of is that I got a letter from my brother yesterday and he expressed a desire to possibly get on the project. He graduates from Dartmouth in June and would be willing to go on the project immediately. He has a pre-med background. I told him to write to you and see. I think he could do the project a lot of good because he is a pretty rugged fellow and a hard worker. I am not sure if you are hiring non specialized help any more but if you are I would appreciate you giving him some consideration. When I was in Hono. Chuck said we were in a bind for guys in June. If you do decide to take on my brother you could send him out here and I could show him the stuff if you needed already trained persons elsewhere. Anything you can do on this would be appreciated Maryanna.

The Sand Island Simpleton,

Dick

May 21, 1964

Dr. Charles A. Ely
6139 Pahukula Street
Kuliouou, Hawaii

Dear Dr. Ely:

Both Dr. Humphrey and Fred, felt that the expense for stainless steel stakes for photo stations and quadrant markers were too expensive for the project. The Phoenix and Line groups will only be visited twice more by the Pacific Project and it was felt that a less expensive stake would suffice for the limited time needed. Fred thought the 6 foot length a good one and suggested a wooden stake, 2 by 2 or 2 by 4 perhaps or a dowel of some sort which would be easy to handle and easy to store. Painting or treating the wood is desirable not only to protect the stake but to help in sighting it on future trips.

Tell Bob if he has another need for such expensive stakes or feels he can really justify their use to feel free to write. It could be that I didn't understand well enough to explain adequately to Fred and Dr. Humphrey.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Maryanna Smellow
Research Secretary
Division of Birds

May 20, 1964

Dr. Charles A. Ely
6139 Pahukula Street
Kulicuou, Hawaii

Dear Doc--

Lockee--I'm keeping you UP-TO-DATE.

Scheduled Personnel arrivals:

Dayle N. Hustead - June 1 -

Cameron B. Kepler - June 1

Dennis L. Stadel - June 1

Paul G. Du Mont - June 15
Philip N. Lehner
Philip N. Lehner - June 15

Alan H. Anderson - June 16

Ralph D. Kirkpatrick - August 24

Max C. Thompson - July 1

Ted VanVelzen decided not to join the project.

Efficient as always,

(Mrs.) Maryanna Smellow
Research Secretary
Division of Birds

P. S. Where was your secretary when I called this a.m.?

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

May 19, 1964

(Mrs.) Maryanna Smellow
Division of Birds
Smithsonian Institution
Washington 25, D.C. 20560

Dear Maryanna:

Enclosed you will find the May 1-15 Bi-Weekly Bird Summary Report. What happened to the forms that were to be sent out from the SI? Thanks for the duplicating paper and master sheets. We will continue making our own forms for this report until you send us the new ones.

Enclosed you will also find some data sheets we obtained from the US weather station on Johnston. Will you contact the US printing office and have them send the SI monthly Johnston Is. Local Climatological Data (Supplement) sheets. Also obtain these sheets back to January, 1963.

Add to that list of items needed-several balls of 1/4 inch cord.

Sincerely yours,

Bill

A. B. Amerson, Jr.
Research Curator
Division of Birds

P.S. Also enclosed is a recent photograph (8 x 10) of Sand Island.

P.P.S. Will you call my dentist and cancel my May 28th appointment. He is Dr. Dinsmore, JA 7-1650

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MRS MARIANNA SMELLO DIVISION OF BIRDS SMITHSONIAN

INSTITUTE WASHINGTONDC

LAMOUREAUX REQUESTS LONG VISIT MIDWAY PLEASE INITIATE TO BUSHMAN

IF FEASIBLE FOR RETURN HERE BY 26 MAY

CHARLES ELY

RCA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
A SERVICE OF RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA
1812 M STREET, N.W. TEL. FE. 8-7500

May 18, 1964 file

Dear Chuck,

Five copies of the first two sections of the Field Guide were mailed off to you late last week. As I understand it, you are to keep one set, one goes to the At Sea people, one to the Phoenix Island group, one to Sand-Johnston, and one to Kure.

If you can find time to look this material over, I am sure you might want to make a few additions or deletions. I am thinking particularly of the "Information Needed" section of the Species Accounts. I have put in a few of the more obvious types of information we need, and I am sure you can add some of our more detailed needs.

So if you can get around to it before distributing these copies, I am sure your comments and additions will be most helpful.

The third section on species identification is coming along quite well, but, as you can readily understand, I am handicapped by not having first hand field experience myself with most of the species treated. This is really a problem with the shearwaters and petrels, where I understand our chief need is for ways to distinguish these birds at a distance.

About all I can do is dig what I can out of the literature, condense it, and serve it up, and then hope that some of the more experienced people like yourself will provide the needed information about field identification. How would it be for me to go as far as I can here, but leaving space for a section on Pacific Project field identification after each species? I could mail these sections on out to you, then you could return them, and I would edit and finish the whole thing off.

I think this last treatment would apply only to shearwaters, petrels, boobies, tropicbirds, and some of the terns.

I shall be looking forward to your reactions to the Field Guide, and I certainly hope that it will be filling a real need.

Sincerely yours,

John

John V. Dennis

P. S. In the Island Accounts, please change Pterodroma arminjoniana, listed under Kure, to P. ultima

Dear Chuck,

I don't know if you would classify this as a postscript or another letter, but it seems that we have inadvertently sent you the wrong notebook in this last shipment of three copies of each of the first two sections of the Field Guide. One of the copies was not the Island Accounts, apparently, but my missing first draft of Keys to the Identification of Waterfowl, Shorebirds, Terns, Gulls, and I believe one or two others.

I would be very happy to have you look over this material and add comments, but I need it back here pretty soon. In the meantime we will get together another copy of the Island Accounts and mail it out to you.

Again Sincerely,

John V. Dennis

file

AIRMAIL

May 18, 1964

Dr. Charles A. Ely
6139 Pahukula Street
Kuliouou, Hawaii

Dear Personnel Director:

Have you got the right hat on? This is late Sunday night and I just got back from a weekend at the beach, so if this letter appears a bit scorched, it is just some sunburn rubbing off.

Pat Sundell just called me. She is leaving in the morning for Michigan to visit families and had heard that Bob's brother's wedding has been moved forward to June 16 and between apologies for asking she asked if Bob could possibly get back for it. I told her the whole situation, a) it isn't my decision; b) June is a real stinker of a personnel problem; c) Bill had to return suddenly from Kure for family reasons and Bob Fleet had been sent back to Kure and had already been there too long, that it was almost dangerous to leave a man on an island so long; d) Dr. Ely is a man with a heart and a real concern for the men with families and their personal needs; e) June 16th was particularly bad because it was the middle of the At-Sea cruise, ATF cruise, etc.

She said perhaps the wedding could be delayed to after the cruise and I just called her back to see if it could be stepped up to very early June. She had meanwhile talked to the brother and found out invitations have been printed and no change in dates is possible. She said the pomp and circumstance of being best man wasn't important to Bob but the family gathering and being with his brother at an important moment in his life was important to him. (She also said she was trying to discourage him from leaving the project). We agreed that the decision would have to be left to you and Bob but that chances were slim indeed that he could return at that time. I will hold up the letter to Bushman requesting Sundell replace Fleet on Kure until May 22nd.

Other personnel notes: Fred would like to meet with Binion in Honolulu the last weekend in May. I haven't started figuring if this will work yet - tomorrow I shall try. I even forget at the moment who is replacing Bin.

Ray Jillson is very happy in Washington working in taxidermy. I think he is doing a good job, at least Bob Sundell thought his skins were good. Taxidermy is very happy with him. He asked if he could stay in DC and work and I said I would tell you that is what he would like. He is willing to do the escorting of bird shipments and I think he would be a good man for that job. No, he does not hang around the office and make us laugh - we generally see him for 5 minutes in the morning and 5 minutes at night. But that is all the time he needs to tell us how sexy we look and make us feel good for the day!!

Mr. Banko has decided that perhaps Vin should be here for the meeting with Max Thompson on May 25. Also he probably needs a different set of clothes to go north. See? I let you tell him the good news as well as the bad!!

Ted VanVelzen has decided to come to work for us. He previously turned down your position because he had just made a commitment to the Banding Office. Now he feels he can come, probably as a 9 (potential 11), very soon. Maybe even the end of this month. Tomorrow he is coming in and I should know more. I'll send you a copy of his 57.

Bill and Bess have reached a decision to get a legal separation. Bill wants to go back to Kure in July; Dr. Humphrey want to wait and see how he works here before saying okay.

Dr. Humphrey is wondering about sending Dennis to the field - I think he mentioned this to you on the phone. He sees both advantages and disadvantages and if you have any opinions - now is the time when they would be welcomed.

I think that is all for the present - the weekend of sun and fresh air is putting me to sleep anyway. I've been doing nothing at work for the last two weeks but playing with the contract amendment - I'll send you a copy <u>if</u> it is ever completed. It should work better than sleeping pills for you.

My best to Janice, the bambino, Pat and the whole gang. Putting Nancy in a cab to go to the airport for a plane to Honolulu nearly killed me, but hello to her, too.

Hi's and bye's,

Maryanna Smellow
Research Secretary
Division of Birds

PS. Pat Sundell called me early Monday Morning to say she had again talked to Bob's brother - in the middle of the night - and the blessed coupld had decided they could postpone the wedding to possibly June 29 but could not move it to an early June date. I told her that probably the only possible thing would be for Bob to forego Kure and he had been wanting to go there for a long time. She knew of that. She is really not asking that he be sent home, but just wanted you to be aware.

MS.

May 16, 1964

Maryanna Smellow
Research Secretary
Pacific Project

Dear Maryanna:

All is well on Kure. S.I. personnel are tan, healthy, overworked, and sober. We haven't had a plane in about three weeks and have run out of almost everything. (we still have water - 7" of rain on the 15th.).

Since my poetry is even worse than the S.I. average I shall come directly to the point. We are running rather low on several supply items and would appreciate a shipment of the following:

1. Banding pliers (3 pr.)
2. Rapidograph, number 1 (2)
3. Ballpoint pens, medium (1 box)
4. Calipers, cheap (1 pr.)
5. Masking tape (5 rolls)
6. Ditt-Mark Duplicator paper (1000 sheets)
7. Banding Schedules (100)

I guess that is about all for now. Forward my mail and I'll see you someday - I hope!

A rumor drifted in here about a new secretary - if it's true tell her that I love her.

As Always;

R. Fleet
Senior Peon
Kure

P.S. I love you too.

for file

AIRMAIL

May 15, 1964

Commander Military Sea Transportation Service
Pacific Area
ATTN: Special Projects Officer
Fort Mason
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

The Smithsonian representative in Honolulu, Hawaii who is authorized to write orders for all Smithsonian Institution and University of Hawaii personnel embarking the USNS Shearwater FS 411 and to represent me is

Dr. Charles A. Ely
Field Director
6139 Pahukula Street
Kuliouou, Hawaii (Phone: 39-103)

DESERET Test Center will provide operational orders to MSTS for the movement of the ship and they will pass them to the Master of the ship.

Sincerely yours,

Philip S. Humphrey
Curator
Division of Birds

cc: DESERET Test Center
Charles A. Ely

fc

May 14, 1964

Dear Maryanna,

Sorry you couldn't be here this morning. It was a glorious send-off. I can't find any of my equipment — just typewriter ribbon.

The United Airlines people were slightly perplexed when I popped in with my air freight. They said prior arrangement will insure space all of the way thru — something they can't always guarantee.

Flying thru Chicago isn't too good. They cancelled my flight because of lack of response at the last minute. This meant I had to fly to San Francisco and layover there before catching another plane for Honolulu. If either of these two planes had been full I'd have been out of luck and stranded.

Enclosed are the first four pages of my journal for this trip. Thought I'd get them back quick so Linda could get busy on them. You might read them over quickly for whatever information they may contain.

You girls behave yourselves while I'm gone. See you all in August, September, October or November or whenever.

¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ¢ ← (Pennies!)

Doug (Hackman)

Hi there,

Did you get the form 57 for the "B.C.F. employee"??

Lisiński trip cancelled.

~~Be good~~ Have fun

Cal

Hachman - supplies to Lisianski May 14, 1964
carried with him as Air Freight

Drum #1 1 bag sawdust + 1 duffelbag

Drum #2 1 bat cotton
Bands 587 - 95001 - 96000
652 - 45001 - 45500
793 - 80001 - 90000
568 - 72301 - 72500

Trunk #1
2 rolls film
1 Hunter's vest
2 head lamps
3 pair shoe strings
2 boxes shotgun shells
1 roll thread
5 pair long-nosed pliers
2 ball point pens
2 pair small scissors
1 pair large scissors
1 scalpel
1 paint brush
1 - 7" needle
100 cotton applicators
1 eraser
1 pair binoculars
1 partial ball of twine
1 pair large tweezers
1 pair small tweezers
3 green war orders books
1 green record book
2 packs journal paper
1 set files
1 can lubricating oil
2 pair gloves.
Bands 587 - 90001 - 94000

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

fe sent — June 5, 1964

May 13, 1964

OK

Mrs. Maryanna Smellow
Division of Birds
Smithsonian Institution
Washington 25, D.C. 20560

Dear Maryanna:

Listed below are a few items we need. Maybe you can get them sent before all the assistants return to the field.

- Memoranda Pads 3
- Calandar--Desk and wall type 1 each
- Stationary supplies:
  - Envelopes,Airmail (with wax paper between)
  - Letterhead paper
  - Second sheets (plain)
- Rapidograph Pens #00 & #0
- Pencils,regular and mechanical
- Pens, ball point with pocket clip
- Aspirin one bottle
- Moth Balls 5 lbs.
- Arsenic & Alum mixture (from taxidermy) 1/2 lb.
- Museum Tags 100
- Plastic bags:
  - Small and large sizes (and extra large)
  - Whirl-pac
- Needle, 8-10 inches long (for taxidermy) 2
- Cord (sample attached) 6 balls
- Kitchen sink 1 (complete with soap-suds and all purpose maid)
- Silica Gel, small packets 12
- Paper clips 1 box
- Mailing tubes, large and small 6 each
- Scotch Ice (in cans) 10

We received the binoculars the first of this week and the 400 chick leg markers today. Thanks very much. I'll send the broken ones to you as soon as possible. I talked to Dr. Ely last night, via the ham set. We needed some hardware cloth to "corral" the Sooty chicks for banding during the day. We now have permission to use metal in the antenna field area. It's the new officers here on Sand.

Best regards,

Bill

A. B. Amerson, Jr.
Research Curator
Division of Birds

T

fa

TFHN WWA 97 SI

WASHINGTON DC 5-13-64 1258P

DR CHARLES A ELY

6139 PUHIKULA STREET KULIOUOU HAWAII

WHEN DOES C. C. SHIP LEAVE FOR LISIANSKI .

MARYANNA SMELLOW SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

CA 1340R

Final draft - for Suitland May 13-17

New file copy

Preliminary report of ectoparasite collections made during the first Pacific Project field trip.

A general survey of the bird ectoparasites, nest fauna, litter samples, and insects of each island was made during the first trip. Eighty-nine samples of ectoparasites were collected from 24 species of birds. The fauna from 23 bird nests (10 species), one mammal nest, and 57 litter samples were collected by the use of Berlese funnels. The accompanying list indicates the number of ectoparasite and nest fauna samples taken from each species on each island group.

A preliminary study of the material has been made. Ectoparasites obtained from the birds include Mallophaga, Hippobiscidae, and Acarina [both mites and ticks (Argasidae)]. In most cases specific information concerning the location of ectoparasites on the host was recorded. The nest fauna includes many mites (both parasitic and free living), spiders, and insects: ants, beetles, flies (adults and larvae), moths, roaches, and earwigs. No fleas or mosquitoes were found but may show up at a different time of the year. A light trap was used but nothing was attracted. Each island was inspected for ticks. These constantly appeared in and around nests of Albatrosses, Boobies, and Terns located on the ground. During the daytime ticks could also be found under driftwood and rocks. The islands from which argasid ticks were collected are Lisianski Island, Howland Island, Pearl and Hermes Reef (North Island and nearby sandbar, Southeast Island, Grass Island, Seal Island, and Kittery Island). Ticks were especially abundant in the Sooty Tern colony on Howland Island. Approximately three hundred live ticks were returned to the Rocky Mountain Laboratory, National Institutes of Health at Hamilton, Montana for study.

The material from the collection is presently being sorted. As soon as this is done various groups will be sent to specialists for identification. Most of this is to be done at the U.S. National Museum.

Problems aboard ship

Working conditions aboard ship were good only while in port and at anchor during calm seas. No microscope work could be done aboard ship while underway due to the constant rolling of the ship. The Berlese funnels, however, could be operated at sea which greatly facilitated the processing of the nest and litter samples.

Ectoparasite and nest fauna samples taken from host species on islands* visited

Host species	Lay.	Mid.	P-H	Lis.	How.	Ku.	At sea
Bonin Island Petrel	5	4					
Bonin Island Petrel Nest		2	2	1			
Sooty Petrel	1						
Sooty Petrel Nest			2				
Little Shearwater		1					
Hawaiian Noddy		4					
Hawaiian Noddy Nest	1			1			
Fairy Tern		7					
Sooty Tern			7		4		
Sooty Tern Nest					2		
Gray-backed Tern				4			
Red-tailed Tropicbird		2					
Red-tailed Tropicbird Nest		2					
Red-footed Booby		4					
Red-footed Booby Nest		2					
Brown Booby				2			
Brown Booby Nest			1				
Masked Booby				1	1		
Frigatebird	1		1	5	1		
Frigatebird Nest				1			
Black-footed Albatross	1	5					
Black-footed Albatross Nest			1				
Laysan Albatross		3					
Laysan Albatross Nest			2			3	
Laysan Teal	2						
Laysan Finch	2						
Bristle-thighed Curlew			1	1			
Golden Plover	1				1	1	
Ruddy Turnstone	1	2		3			
Sanderling	1						
Tattler				1			
Pomarine Jaeger							2
Gulls	1	2	1				
Horned Puffin	1						
Rattus Nest		1					

*Laysan, Midway, Pearl Hermes Reef, Lisianski, Howland, Kure.

cc- Sudduth
Smallberg- 2
Humphrey- 2

File

AIRMAIL

May 12, 1964

Mr. A. Binion Amerson, Jr.
Smithsonian Party
US Coast Guard LORAN Station
APO 105
San Francisco, California

Dear Binion:

Thanks very much for your corrections and suggestions of the Circular Letters. These were received in plenty of time; matter of fact yours were the first to arrive. Fred Sibley has given some good suggestions too. When the thoughts of Ely, Wirtz and Gould arrive we will be ready to turn out the final (preliminary?) copy.

Thanks much.

Sincerely yours,

Winston Banko
Director, Pacific Project
Division of Birds

✓ Humphrey
✓ Maryanna
✓ Dennis
✓ Sibley
✓ Wirtz

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

May 12, 1964

Mr. Winston Banko, Director
Pacific Project
Division of Birds
Smithsonian Institution
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Win:

I can see that I owe you an apology for my quick retort to the "Droppings" of 27 April. What excited me was the suggestion of a circular letter on the subject. After talking to Dr. Humphrey and reading the 4 May droppings I now understand your intent. I remember the care with which the past circular letters were drafted with everyone available contributing comments. In the case of feeding habits I wanted to make sure that our observers were given the same chance as outside consultants, especially when our data differed so drastically. Almost the entire at-sea group was here so we had a rather lively discussion with many comments but I regret to say few dated, written field notes. Well, observations should be better documented in the future.

I've done a lot of thinking and some sketching (?) and writing concerning at-sea identification and I just don't seem to make much progress. I don't think Alexander or Peterson solve the problems but I can't seem to do much better. I can still see the differences but describing them in words and sketches is something else. I would prefer that John didn't wait on me for a section but I will send some suggestions later. If Pat, Warren and I can agree on characteristics perhaps we could send in a supplement just for at sea work. It is extremely difficult--colors seem to change with sun direction and amount of cloud cover; flight varies with wind speed, direction of wind with respect to observer, and wave height; and foot and bill colors are rarely seen under field conditions. Yet with experience most birds can be distinguished at a considerable distance. Some will always be unidentified. But perhaps our attempts now will result in something more accurate later.

I'll try to review some of the other circular letters in the next day or so. The phone rings almost as much here as in D.C., usually just requesting the umteenth reassurance that previous plans are still on.

Sometimes its good news-- heard yesterday that we can have a third man on Kure! So far with all of the running around and waiting I've only had a chance to answer points with which I disagree. Actually I agree with most of what is being done and said, I just don't get around to saying so.

Well, I've got to get some data together to help Ron Walker plan the Lisianski trip so had better stop here. Eugene Kridler had to cancel out tonight because he is house hunting but we'll get together soon.

The copy of the S. I. - Department of the Interior Agreement was very welcome. It should prevent numerous misunderstandings. I wish we had a similar one with Coast Guard, and other groups.

Sincerely,

Chuck

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

May 11, 1964

Mrs. Herbert M. Church, Jr.
Division of Birds
Smithsonain Institution
Washington 25, D.C. 20560

Dear Mrs. Church:

We will be needing some more #3 bands for Sooty Terns in about two weeks. The Sooty chicks are getting large enough to band and I would like to band as many as possible before they fly. Some are almost flying now. I have allotted 10,000 of the ones on hand for chicks. We need about 10,000 more. We have about 7,000 left for adults (not counting anodized ones), so some more for adults are needed also. This brings up the question about color streamers. Have any been ordered? I wrote about this earlier (March 26) in a letter to Maryanna. I think they are well worth the time and effort it takes to cut [redacted] and put them on.

We also need another 1,000 #5 (regular) bands for Wedge-tailed Shearwaters. We have 600 regular #5's left (plus 400 light colored anodized, which were used last year on chicks). I would like to put only regular bands on the adults. We have already banded 400 this season and there are many more to do. We haven't even touched some of their nesting areas due to the presence of incubating Sooty Terns.

Best regards,

Burton Amerson

A. B. Amerson, Jr.
Research Curator
Division of Birds
(Sand Island, Johnston Atoll)

Bands sent May 14, 1964.

AIRMAIL

May 11, 1964

Dr. Charles A. Ely
6139 Pahukula Street
Kuliouou, Hawaii

Dear Dr. Ely:

Communications are always a little vague over the phone so I have reanswered some of your questions below:

Food: I am planning on taking an eight man cook kit on shore and using one of the two burner gasoline stoves. Using an ice chest I think we could handle such things as eggs, hotdogs, and hamburgers with little trouble. Dry items such as macaroni and rice present no problems and canned soups, beans, fruit should round out the diet. This is not much compared to meals on board but a great improvement over C-rations and yet still relatively easy to prepare and clean up after. I imagine the ship will have all these items and my original comment on foods was only to inform them that we would like to draw on their stores.

You know that the SI will have six people on board now that the Chief is not coming. This will create additional storage problems for blood supplies but I imagine these can be best worked out on the spot. Doug Gill is the new man. GS-5, summer help, brother of Frank Gill (Indian Ocean), arrives 25th of May.

Surprised that Capt. Cummings reported that the lights were satisfactory since we used them very little and the ship depended on its radar almost entirely. These new battery powered lights will however, provide reference points on the island for the whole night without much fuss required by the crew ashore (the pressure lamps were often pumped several times during the night).

I hear you are taking Hackman away for the rest of May. This complicates plans somewhat on moving supplies aboard. I had originally planned to have Doug spend the 25th-29th preparing equipment and moving it in on board. If Larry is staying in Honolulu for this period I can turn most of this job over to him and then come out a day earlier to move everything on board (i.e., move on the 29th). Please inform me if

Larry will not be available.

Do you know exactly when we are going to be in Pago Pago? Don't work Larry too hard. It sounds like he's turning into a Bulwer's Petrel. Tell King and Larry they don't have a chance on the year list..Roger has that old gleam in his eye. If he can't outband everyone he's goint to outlist them.

Sincerely yours,

Fred C. Sibley
Research Curator
Division of Birds

A. B. AMERSON, JR.
BIRD DIV., PACIFIC PROJECT
SMITHSONIAN INST., U.S.N.M.
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

May 7, 1964

Dear Maryanna:

I recently ordered a tape recorder from the Far East Exchange. It is to be sent to D.C. I had it sent to my apartment address, since I thought I would be back in time to receive it there. I did give the SI address as a forwarding address. Be on the look out for this, as I would hate for it to be sent back to Japan. I ordered it April 20th, and normally it takes about a month to receive something from the F.E.E. I also joined the Columbia tape club this week, so a package and correspondence will be coming soon. Do not forward the tapes to me here in the field. If I receive the monthly selection booklet, open the letter and see how long I have to send it back. If you think I have time to receive it and send it back, forward it on to me immediately. If you don't think I will have time to receive it, I'll trust you with making the selection for me.

Enclosed you will find a cartoon which according to Dick fits the "Tall Tale" from Kure. You can add the proper name to the caption.

Best regards,

Binion

Binion

file

May 7, 1964

Dr. Charles A. Ely
6139 Pahukula Street
Kuliouou, Hawaii

Dear Dr. Ely:

I haven't the heart to write Vin, you will have to pass on the information! There is going to be an Aleutian trip for Hoeman and Banko in early June and Vin was planning on returning immediately after the May SOS cruise in order to "begin work on it(Aleutian)." The sad thing is: there is no work to be done!! I feel like this is squashing enthusiasm but what can one do? Mr. Banko says he will make all arrangements and they will take little more than the clothes on their backs. He suggested that Hoeman could even meet him in Portland!! There is a lot of work here to be done - Banko has had no help on his reference file system yet; Dennis is asking for volunteers; taxidermy has a long road ahead with Jillson turning out 3-5 birds a day; and Linda is losing weight running erands for me. So - it would be great if Vin would come back, but not to work on the Aleutian phase right now. Let me know as soon as you can since it will make a difference in funding, etc.

Now - Dr. Humphrey and Fred were talking about the July, August and September SOS cruises - I was jotting down the following notes to send to you.

a) take Leeward trip in July; August and September to Marshall, Gilberts.

b) Give Gould a "Good Rest", August and September.

c) To the Leewards, Gould and a Botany-type person should go. Stop at Pearl-Hermes, and 2 or 3 others. Wislocki might be good to go.

d) ATF trip will be back for August-September and so will Cromwell. Should staff Marshall-Gilbert cruise with people with experience in hopping from ship to island camp. Bratley would be good for one camp leader; Hackman would also be good. Sundell cannot be away from DC in August; Fred needs to

return to DC., can't go; Huber only at Dr. Ely's discretion. Need good skinners in each camp and crack bird-banders. The man to stay aboard ship to go to Pago Pago? - no decision!

Now - if that doesn't confuse you, what else can I do?

Love and confusion,

Maryanna Smellow
Research Secretary
Division of Birds

fu

May 6, 1964

Dear Pat,

Well, I made it here finally after a long long trip. The Fish and Wildlife people in Minneapolis were most cooperative to say the very least, and Amadon gave me an extra $200. for bothering to visit him in New York. I did stop at both Ann Arbor and the American Museum to look at Pterodroma.

First off, it would not be worth your while to visit Ann Arbor's museum for Pterodroma: The only series there is of P. mollis mollis (South Trinadad Petrel), but it happens that mollis is a Pterodroma with a chest band and looks very like what we were seeing at sea last month. Like a boob I forgot to look at the locality of this population but I will soon and shall get it to you certainly by May 18. Oddly enough, this series at Ann Arbor is one of the few missing at the American Museum. If you want this series, it would be proper to request that Dr. Humphrey write Dr. Robert Storer of the UMMZ and and ask for it. The American Museum's collections of Pterodroma are excellent and you should definitely go and look at this as soon as possible. I believe that they are missing only one species in their series of this genus, and what they have is very good. As to the Pterodroma from the Pacific with black chest bands and a white venter -

1.) Pterodroma alba (Phoenix Island Petrel) - Locality Phoenix islands, Christmas Id. and probably several other locations (Marquesas) Useful reference specimens in American Museum #205598, #194413. Also called P. parvirostris. Clapp informs me that the Phoenix and Christmas Island birds are entering the peak stages of their breeding cycle and that this bird is often seen over the islands during the day (from 1400 on) in sizable flocks. We should have seen this in Jan. and Feb. not April. Probably what we have seen is not P. alba.

2.) Pterodroma neglecta, and P. n. philippi - Locations - Oeno Island, South Pacific, and Ducie Island, South Pacific. Useful specimen numbers from American Museum # 191516, # 191628, #442766. It is larger by 1/3 the size of a Bonin (P. hypoleuca) with dark chest and neck, or dark chest band. I think that this is it.

3.) Pterodroma arminjoniana and P. a. heraldica - Location P. a. a. Atlantic Ocean, Trinadad Islet # 269663. Des. Black Band on Chest with white throat.

P. a. H. Location Oeno IslandPacific, ocean, # 191627. Dark wing lining. This population shows a tremendous variation from all black birds to birds with no black on the venter at all. Some birds (viz. specimen # given) have a well defined black band on the chest.

Pat, my best guess is that we are seeing migrating or dispersing birds of neglecta or arminjoniana. My best recommendation is that you get to the American museum just to look over the specimans. I saw some Pterodroma which I have nagging suspicions that we saw in January and February. Now that the southern species are dispersing this way you had best be ready with as much information as possible. We have a lot to learn about these critters.

Pat I hope that this helps a bit. As for me I ready to pull up stakes here and head home. In a way I am sad to be leaving so many exciting problems, but rest assured that I'll be back. My research for the summer is shaping up well especially in view of the past two days conversations. I will keep you posted on life in the Great Lakes and I expect that you and chuck will do the same. Please tell chuck that I edited the film as he requested, but since I did not see him that Saturday before leaving I destroyed the piece myself. My best wishes to you all, and have a fine vacation - do let me know at 2864 Military St. Port Huron Michigan (Phone: 98-25531 in Port Huron) if you can stop by Ann Arbor in late May. If not, see you at the AOU.

Jim Ludwig

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

May 5, 1964

(Mrs.) Maryanna Smellow
Division of Birds
Smithsonian Institution
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Maryanna:

Enclosed you will find an item of interest for the next droppings. The Frozen Bird Barf originated from our having to feed two Sooty chicks (both albino) which we are raising. We get an over abundance of food from adults while banding so we freeze the fish that's left over and use it later. Thus the formation of the Sand Island Frozen Bird Barf Co.

Also enclosed is the guarantee on the freezer. Be sure to read the first paragraph. We also send the bicycle guarantee, which we took the liberty of filling out!!!

Best regards,

Binion

Binion Amerson

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
5010-104

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. E. Banko DATE: May 5, 1964

FROM : Dr. Charles A. Ely

SUBJECT: Droppings of 27 April

Dear Win:

The Droppings of 27 April arrived recently and contain the fuel for a very hot controversy which I would like to join. Pat and others will very possibly add their comments when their Droppings arrive. I'm referring specifically to the section describing Dr. Wickstead's comments on sea bird foods and which present a far different picture from what we have observed personally. I feel that the six points given present a misleading picture and that formal decisions should await more data. Perhaps our field observations are still unknown although I'm sure some were included in the at-sea report. This illustrates again the need for more free time for our field people to write up and think about their data.

I'll discuss only one point now -- No. 4. Cephalapods DO (at least sometimes) occur near the surface during daylight hours and we have reported this. Our men on the at sea cruises have observed this frequently. We have on a number of occasions had squid washed into the whale boat while we were in feeding flocks. I have handled such squid myself and on at least one occasion one was preserved by the U. H. men. Birds with fresh squid in their crops and throats have been collected during daylight hours and often regurgitate such after being brought aboard. This can be easily demonstrated by checking the Mc Bee cards and correlating time of day collected and food habits. I'd be interested in the results.

Also Doug Whitman observed squid at the surface on one of the MSO cruises. Larry Huber has seen squid "leap" out of the water when pursued by tuna. Fresh squid are brought into Sand Island by Sooty Terns at all hours of the day. The presence of feeding flocks over squid has been observed several times whether it was specifically recorded or not.

What I'm trying to point out is that before we jump to a lot of conclusions we should take a look at what our own people are finding. Please, no circular letter until we have a chance to present our data. The droppings are serving a useful purpose because this issue raised my ire and you can be sure that food habit data will be better and more frequently documented from now on.

I disagree with some of the other points made also but perhaps this is a difference in study area. I don't see how anyone who has been on these cruises could deny the importance of predatory fish and the driving of flying fish (and I'm sure squid) to the surface. Needless to say we will continue to gather data and I for one will argue my opinions.

I also have a few comments on the identification section of the Field Guide, but I hate to say much until I can find time to help. The most important point is to make it useful so that it will be used in the field. The earlier one was used very little. Descriptions by Peterson and Alexander are of limited use for the groups where needed (esp. petrels).

It is going to be very difficult to prepare a guide which will satisfy even half of the people concerned since the needs at sea and on the islands are so different. Personally I favor a guide to distant live birds and feel that if anyone has a bird in the hand which he does not recognize, he should preserve it. I also question identification at the racial level since these are usually unreliable except with a bird in the hand and then certain only if the bird is preserved. Sampling for specific races over others can present problems unless the races are well defined. Such samples greatly bias any attempts to revise a group or species and a number of species in our area are in great need of revision especially Pterodroma and Fregata. There is something to be said for adding geographic variation in soft part colors also. The danger as I see it is to get the guide so complete and detailed that it can be used only with a dead bird in the hand and this can always be done at S.I.

To demonstrate that I'm not a complete pessimist I will try to work up a simple guide to at-sea ~~distribution~~ identification if time permits. If successful I will have Pat and Warren look at it and send a copy on. Please don't wait on it however - each time I get started a new problem arises.

Sincerely,

Chuck

fu 2/5

FHN WUA 28 43 SI

WASHINGTON DC 5-5-64 0858R

CHARLES A ELY

6139 PAHUKULA ST KULIOUOU HAWAII

HOLIDAY ARRIVES 740 PM MAY 5

MARYANNA SMELLOW

AP 0914R

aboard ship
Pearl Harbor
4 May 1964

Mr. Winston Banko
Pacific Project
Smithsonian Inst.
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Banko;

Preparing to leave on the May STARBRITE cruise this morning, I will attempt to get this letter in the mail before we depart. Since getting in from the April cruise I have been busy leading a first trip to the "Big Island" Hawaii. I do wish to acknowledge your last letter regarding the June Aleutian trip and say that I intend to return to Washington immediately upon termination of the present cruise to begin work on it.

See you in 17 days!

Respectfully yours,

Vin Hoeman

J. Vin Hoeman
Research Assistant

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

May 1, 1964

(Mrs.) Maryanna Swellow
Division of Birds
Smithsonian Institution
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Maryanna:

The freezer arrived on Wednesday (4/29) and we set it up yesterday. It's running fine and in excellent condition.

Dick arrived also on Wednesday amid another one of our rainy days. I am glad he brought a pair of binoculars since the pair here is slightly out of line. Our other pair disappeared when the at-sea crew visited the island in March. I've asked Pat and Dr. Ely to check their binocs, but they seem to have run out of ink or have no paper since I haven't heard from them about the missing pair. Anyway now that we have a replacement, I will send the broken pair back to D.C. for repairs. Another pair is needed, however, so if another is available send it on out here.

Thanks for the stationary supplies with wax paper spacers. That will certainly help. Actually we need some kind of box which we can seal all of our stationary supplies. By using some silica gel packets our problems would be over.

Best regards,

Binion

Binion Amerson

P.S. I made a slight error in copying the poem "With apologies to the reader" in the last Splatterings. In the line "So send back D. and give us S.", D. should be changed to G.

For Paul!

FIN UWA 56 SI

WASHINGTON DC 5-1-64 10 30P

DR CHARLES A ELY

6139 PAHUKULA ST KILOUOU HAWAII

BIANCHI TRAVEL AGENCY DEMANDS IMMEDIATE PAYMENT ON TICKET ISSUED JANUARY 20, 1964 REFUSES FURTHER CREDIT. $552.30 DUE.

MARYANNA SMELLOW SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE

20 1964 552.30

DHN 1100R

Jillson has the wrong person because I didn't strip over 4 out of all the birds on the last trip.
no more cookie buster

Here are my latest birds
Dark rumped petrel
turkey
Hawaii amakihi
Mini
Jap. Blue Pheasant
Calif Valley Quail
Chukar partridge
Indian Gray partridge
Erckel's Francolin
Garganey teal.
Year list 134
Life list 252

L. Huber

Send out money for these rarities quickly

'64

fel

May 1964

Dear Mrs Jurgens:

1. Please forward this to Mr. Gerr at Royal-McBee, N.Y. for a redrawn test card and have it airmailed to us.

2. Please forward some Project stationery if available.

3. Need species list (see Linda).

Miss you all. Thanks for your help. In haste

Bob Long